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As of February 17, 2025

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To see names of Festival Supporters and Community Sponsors, along with sponsors submitted after the printing of this brochure, please visit our website at jccmetrowest.org/njjff.

Festival programs are subject to change or cancellation.
Please check **jccmetrowest.org/njjff** for the most up-to-date information.

TICKETS: jccmw.us/njjff25tix
- Most festival films are $15/ticket
- Special Events are $18/ticket; all are noted in the schedule
- Eventbrite service fees apply to credit card sales online
- All events are FREE for NJJFF Sponsors and Festival Supporter Pass holders
- Advance registration preferred, as films will sell out
- Limited tickets will be sold at the door for cash, only; to buy advance tickets with cash, please see our box office hours below.
- Sorry, no refunds or exchanges

EVENTBRITE SUPPORT:
For technical questions, please email:
NJJFFsupport@jccmetrowest.org
We are not able to offer ticket sales over the phone. Please come to our in-person box office hours, listed below.

IN-PERSON BOX OFFICE AT THE J
Advance tickets purchased with cash or check (no credit cards, sorry) are available at the following times:

11:30 am – 1 pm • Wednesday, March 5
11:30 am – 1 pm • Thursday, March 6
6 – 7 pm • Monday, March 10
8:30 – 10 am • Friday, March 14

Please see the NJJFF website for updated box office hours

ALL EVENTS AT:
Maurice Levin Theater
Leon and Toby Cooperman JCC
Pauline B. and Mortimer Salzman Building
Eric F. and Lore Ross Family Campus
760 Northfield Avenue
West Orange, New Jersey

SEATING POLICY
Sponsor and Passholder seating will begin 30 minutes prior to all screenings. General admission ticket holders will be admitted 20 minutes prior to all screenings. In the event of a sell-out, a wait list will be created for any further sales.

GENERAL INFO
Films are not rated and may contain violence, sexual content, and/or explicit language. We encourage all viewers to make informed decisions. Please see each film's listing for information about its language, subtitles, and availability of English captions.

NEW JERSEY JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL
MetroWest

Leon and Toby Cooperman JCC
Pauline B. and Mortimer Salzman Building
Eric F. and Lore Ross Family Campus
760 Northfield Avenue | West Orange, NJ 07052
jccmetrowest.org

JCC MetroWest strives to ensure access and meaningful participation by all members of the community.

THE J GALEN CENTER FOR THE ARTS
MetroWest

Jewish Federation of Greater MetroWest NJ

JCC MetroWest is a beneficiary agency of Jewish Federation of Greater MetroWest NJ.

Made possible by funds from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts.

AWARD-WINNING FILMS ■ Q&A SESSIONS WITH GUEST SPEAKERS
SPECIAL PROGRAMS ■ RECEPTIONS

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF JEWISH FILM

25TH ANNIVERSARY
J MetroWest
NEW JERSEY JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL

MARCH 20 – APRIL 6, 2025

Matchmaking 2 • 2024, Israel

MONDAY 3/10 PREGAME

7–9PM
Matchmaking
$10 tickets
Erez Tadmor
2022, Israel, 96 minutes

FEATURE

Hebrew with English subtitles

A high-achieving Ashkenazi yeshiva student falls in love with a Mizrahi girl and takes making his match into his own hands. If you missed our sold-out screening of this hit Israeli romantic comedy in the 2024 NJFF, catch it now — it's not streaming — to best enjoy *Matchmaking 2* (March 29, 9 pm) at this year's NJFF!

THURSDAY 3/20 OPENING NIGHT

7–9:30PM
Bad Shabbos
$18 tickets
Daniel Robbins
2024, USA, 84 minutes

FEATURE

English with English subtitles

In this madcap only-in-New York comedy, an engaged interfaith couple is about to have their parents meet for the first time over Shabbat dinner when an accidental death gets in the way. Audience Award Winner at the 2024 Tribeca Film Festival.

POST-SCREENING Q&A
with director/cowriter Daniel Robbins, cowriter Zack Weiner (in person), and stars Meghan Leathers and Theo Taplitz (on Zoom)

SATURDAY 3/22

8:45–10:45PM
Running on Sand
Adar Shafran
2023, Israel
104 minutes

FEATURE

Hebrew, English, & Tigrinya with English subtitles

Aumari, a young Eritrean refugee, is about to be deported from Israel. After an escape attempt, he is mistaken for Maccabi Netanya's new star player from Nigeria, and his fate becomes intertwined with the soccer team's success in this drama leavened with humor.

SUNDAY 3/23

NOON–2PM
Of Dogs and Men
Dani Rosenberg
2024, Israel
82 minutes

FEATURE

Hebrew with English subtitles

Filmed on location in Kibbutz Nir Oz shortly after October 7, 2023 — and with the participation of October 7 survivors — a 16-year-old girl returns to her devastated community in search of her missing dog. This drama includes some (non-graphic) footage of the October 7 attack and the ensuing war.

POST-SCREENING Q&A
with director/cowriter Dani Rosenberg on Zoom

3–5:15PM
Unspoken
Jeremy Borison
2024, USA
91 minutes

FEATURE

English with English subtitles

Noam, a closeted Orthodox teenager, discovers a love letter written to his grandfather by another man before World War II. He sets out to find the letter's writer while coming to terms with his own identity.

POST-SCREENING Q&A
with director/writer Jeremy Borison on Zoom

MONDAY 3/24

7–9:30PM
The Spoils
Jamie Kastner
2024, Canada
104 minutes

DOCUMENTARY

English and German with English subtitles

Shot over four years, this ironic documentary profiles the Düsseldorf City Museum's floundering attempts to honor German-Jewish art dealer Max Stern and explores the still-raging battle over the restitution of Nazi-looted art.

POST-SCREENING Q&A
with Janet Cohen Mandel, arts educator and frequent speaker at JCC MetroWest

TUESDAY 3/25

7–9:30PM
Come Closer
Tom Nesher
2024, Israel
107 minutes

FEATURE

Hebrew with English subtitles

When her beloved younger brother suddenly dies, Eden is drawn into an obsessive relationship with the girlfriend he kept secret. This stunning first feature by Tom Nesher won Best Picture and three other Ophir Awards (Israel's Oscars) and the Viewpoints Award at the 2024 Tribeca Film Festival, among other accolades.

PRERECORDED Q&A
with director/writer Tom Nesher will follow the film

WEDNESDAY 3/26

1–3:15PM
Diane Warren: Relentless
Bess Kargman
2025, USA
91 minutes

DOCUMENTARY

English with English subtitles

Diane Warren is one of the most prolific and successful songwriters of all time. Featuring interviews with Cher, Quincy Jones, Jennifer Hudson, and other stars, this documentary offers intimate access to Warren and tells her story from her upbringing as a Jewish, neurodivergent music lover to the pinnacle of the American music industry.

POST-SCREENING Q&A
with director Bess Kargman on Zoom

SHORTS PROGRAM FRIDAY 3/28 NOON–2PM

Total running time: 110 minutes
All short films have English subtitles

Goodman
USA, Ben Rosenbach, 14 minutes

The Cave Synagogue
USA, Peter Decherney, 8 minutes

The Holiness
Israel, Daniel Moreshet
17 minutes

Lion of Zion
USA, Mike Musikanto, 33 minutes

Girl No. 60427
Israel, Shulamit Lifshitz & Oriel Berkovits, 22 minutes

Miriam
USA, Josie Andrews, 16 minutes

NJJFF SPOTLIGHT SATURDAY 3/29

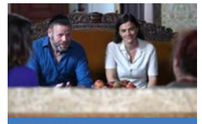
NJ PREMIERE
9–11PM
Matchmaking 2
$18 tickets
Erez Tadmor, 2024
Israel, 100 minutes

FEATURE

Hebrew with English subtitles

Picking up after the events of *Matchmaking*, Moti and Nechama navigate their next steps while his friend, Baruch, embarks on his own quest to find a bride. This sequel cleverly builds upon *Matchmaking* with humor and depth.

SUNDAY 3/30



NJ PREMIERE
3–5:30PM
The Ring
Adir Miller, Doron Paz, Yoav Paz, 2024
Israel, 110 minutes

FEATURE

Hebrew, English, and Hungarian with English subtitles

In 1944 Hungary, a young Jewish woman saves herself and her infant son by bribing a soldier with her gold ring. Decades later in Israel, with her health in decline, the son travels to Hungary with his estranged daughter to recover the ring and, hopefully, save his mother's life one more time.

POST-SCREENING Q&A
with lead actress, Joy Rieger, on Zoom

DOCUMENTARY DOUBLE FEATURE MONDAY 3/31

7–9:30PM
Jerry's Last Mission
Louisa Merino, 2021, USA, 58 minutes
English and Japanese with English subtitles

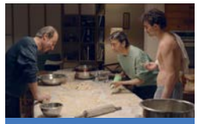
This documentary profiles Newark-born Jerry Yellin, a World War II combat pilot who overcame prejudice and PTSD to devote his golden years to teaching humanism and peace to other veterans and schoolchildren.

The Path Forward
Julie Cohen, Mo Husseini, 2024, USA, 39 minutes
English, Hebrew, and Arabic with English subtitles

From the director of *RBG*, *The Path Forward* profiles three pairs of Jewish and Palestinian activists in the wake of October 7, all grieving losses from war and all seeking a peaceful future through dialogue. This film is designed to be non-triggering and contains no images of war, death, or public protests.

POST-SCREENING Q&A
with filmmakers Mike Yellin and Julie Cohen

TUESDAY 4/1



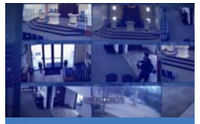
7–9:30PM
Hemda (Bliss)
Shemi Zarhin
2024, Israel
125 minutes

FEATURE

Hebrew with English subtitles

This gentle drama, spiced with humor, follows a long-married couple (Israeli acting legends Sasson Gabay and Assi Levy) whose bond is tested by the dual returns of their teenage grandson and a figure from their past.

WEDNESDAY 4/2



1–3PM
Colleyville
Dani Menkin
2024, USA
80 minutes

FEATURE

English with English subtitles

This documentary by Dani Menkin (*On the Map*, *Aulcie*) uses never-before-seen surveillance footage and interviews with all those involved to examine the January 2022 Texas synagogue hostage siege, from which every captive emerged alive.

POST-SCREENING Q&A
with filmmaker Dani Menkin and Colleyville hostage crisis survivor Jeff Cohen on Zoom

NJJFF SPOTLIGHT THURSDAY 4/3

7–9:30PM
Sabbath Queen
$18 tickets
Sandi DuBowski
2024, USA, 105 minutes

DOCUMENTARY

English, Hebrew, and Yiddish with English subtitles

21 years in the making, *Sabbath Queen* follows Amichai Lau-Lavie's journey from descendant of 38 generations of Orthodox rabbis to radical drag queen to influential founder of an experimental, artist-driven New York synagogue.

POST-SCREENING Q&A
with filmmaker Sandi DuBowski

SATURDAY 4/5

9–11PM
Mazel Tov
Adrián Suar
2024, Argentina
97 minutes

FEATURE

Spanish with English subtitles

In this comedy, a Jewish-Argentinian patriarch passes away just before a family wedding and a bat mitzvah, leaving his four children to navigate their grief, eccentric grudges, and unfinished business together.

SUNDAY 4/6 CLOSING FILM

3–5:45PM
Midas Man
$18 tickets
Joe Stephenson
2024, UK
112 minutes

FEATURE

English with English subtitles

This highly entertaining biopic of Beatles manager and music innovator Brian Epstein captures his Jewish family life and his meteoric rise with the Fab Four alongside his struggles as a closeted gay man in Swinging Sixties England.

POST-SCREENING CONCERT
with live Beatles cover band

GET TICKETS NOW!

visit: jccmw.us/njjff25tix
or scan here>

Film schedule as of February 20, 2025

25TH ANNIVERSARY NEW JERSEY JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL MetroWest
MARCH 20 – APRIL 6, 2025

FESTIVAL COMMITTEE CO-CHAIRS: Joni Cohen & Terri Friedman
FOUNDERS: Caren Ford & Herbert Ford
CURATOR: Vicky Jacobs
FESTIVAL DIRECTOR: Stuart Weinstock

FESTIVAL COMMITTEE

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