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EDITOR'S NOTE: Please contact the Allen and Joan Bildner Center for the Study of Jewish Life at 732-932-4166 or visit BildnerCenter.rutgers.edu

RUTGERS JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL TO RUN OCTOBER 30 – NOVEMBER 11

NEW BRUNSWICK, N.J. – The thirteenth annual Rutgers Jewish Film Festival brings New Jersey seventeen diverse, critically acclaimed, international film productions, as well as discussions with filmmakers and scholars. Held October 30 – November 11, all screenings and special events will take place at the Regal Cinema Commerce Center, 2399 Route 1 South, in North Brunswick. The festival is sponsored by Rutgers' Allen and Joan Bildner Center for the Study of Jewish Life and made possible through a grant from the Karma Foundation.

Through dramas, documentaries, and shorts, the festival will explore a broad range of topics, including: Israeli society, culture, and history; adolescence and identity; and stories of escape and rescue during the Holocaust. An international array of films is presented from America, the Czech and Slovak Republics, France, Germany, Israel, Poland, and the Ukraine. A number of the films are New Jersey or East Coast premieres.

Opening night will feature the New Jersey premiere of *Orchestra of Exiles*, a 2012 American and Israeli documentary, which tells the remarkable story of Bronislaw Huberman, the acclaimed Polish violinist who rescued some of the world's finest musicians from Nazi Germany and founded the orchestra that would later become the Israel Philharmonic. The film's director, Josh Aronson, as well as Dorit Straus, daughter of an original orchestra member, will make guest appearances at the screening. Opening night features a buffet dinner and dessert reception for Patrons of the festival.

Additional notable offerings include the East Coast Premiere of *Hava Nagila (The Movie)*, which explores the history of this powerful song with humor and depth. Director Roberta Grossman will be on hand to discuss the film. Three films about Israeli Society – *Dusk*, *Lenin in October*, and *Inventing Our Life: The Kibbutz Experiment* – are presented in conjunction with The Fertile Crescent: Gender, Art, and Society, a semester-long project of the Rutgers Institute

for Women and Art. The screening of *Inventing our Life* is sponsored by David and Sylvia Steiner.

Closing night will feature *Life in Stills*, winner for best documentary at the 2011 Doc Aviv Film Festival. Film director Tamar Tal will speak at the screening. Her film tells the story of ninety-six year old Miriam Weissenstein who joins together with her grandson to protect her late husband's life's work –photos and nearly one million negatives that document defining moments in the history of Israel. Also on the program is the East Coast premiere of the short film *Music Man Murray*.

Tickets are now on sale and advance purchase is strongly recommended. Ticket information is available from BildnerCenter.rutgers.edu or by calling the Bildner Center at 732-932-4166. Film tickets are priced from \$6 to \$12 and are available online, by mail, at the Bildner Center, and at Trio Gifts, 246 Raritan Ave., Highland Park. Tickets may also be purchased at the theater during the festival, one hour prior to the start of the day's first screening. Check BildnerCenter.rutgers.edu for film updates and ticket availability.

Following is a full list of films and speakers at the festival:

Orchestra of Exiles (in English)

Orchestra of Exiles reveals the dramatic story of Bronislaw Huberman, the celebrated Polish violinist who rescued some of the world's greatest musicians from Nazi Germany. His four-year odyssey culminated in the founding of an orchestra in Palestine that later became the Israel Philharmonic.

Screenings: Tuesday, October 30, at 7:30 p.m., with Josh Aronson, director, and Dorit Straus, daughter of original orchestra member. Tuesday, November 6, at 12:30 p.m.

Five Brothers (French with English subtitles)

This fast-paced thriller is set within the tightly knit Algerian Jewish community in France. From a handsome young man speeding his Audi on a mountain road above the Mediterranean to a leather bag filled with bills, to Shabbat dinner and a prison break, *Five Brothers* reveals the intimate world of the Hayoun family. When dark revelations surface and the mob comes knocking at their door, the brothers band together to protect the family.

Screenings: Thursday, November 1, at 3:15 p.m., and Saturday, November 10, at

9:15 p.m.

The Flat (English, German, and Hebrew with English subtitles)

The flat, on the third floor of a Bauhaus building in Tel Aviv, was where Arnon Goldfinger's grandparents lived since they immigrated to Palestine. Were it not for the view from the windows, one might have thought that the flat was in Berlin . . . furnished with heavy European pieces and bookcases filled with the best of German literature. Then, at age ninety-eight, his grandmother died. Objects, pictures, letters, and documents awaited, revealing the complex lives of his grandparents Gerda and Kurt Tuchler, as well as clues to a troubled and painful past.

Screenings: Thursday, November 1, at 7:30 p.m., director invited.

Sunday, November 4, at 11:45 a.m., with remarks by Professor Michael Levine, Department of German, Rutgers University.

My Australia (Hebrew and Polish with English subtitles)

In 1960s Łódź, Poland, ten-year-old Tadek and his older brother belong to a gang with a strong anti-Semitic bent. When they are arrested, their mother reveals that though raised as Catholics, they are in fact Jewish. The family boards a ship for Israel, and the boys are sent to live on a kibbutz, where Polish street culture clashes with the open-door policy of the kibbutz. This tender and humorous drama is based on the filmmaker's own experiences.

Screenings: Saturday, November 3, at 7:15 p.m., and Sunday, November 11, at 4:45 p.m.

Remembrance (English, German, and Polish with English subtitles)

Inspired by actual events, Remembrance depicts a remarkable love story that blossomed in a Nazi concentration camp in Poland in 1944. In a daring escape, Tomasz, a young Polish prisoner, rescues his Jewish lover, Hannah. In the chaos of the end of the war, they are separated and each is convinced that the other has died. More than thirty years later in New York City, Hannah makes a stunning discovery.

Screenings: Saturday, November 3, at 9:30 p.m., and Sunday, November 4, at 2:30 p.m.

Nicky's Family (in English)

In 1938, Sir Nicholas Winton was visiting Prague when he learned about the Jewish refugees fleeing the Nazis. Winton decided to help their cause and arranged visas and admission to British families for nearly 700 European Jewish children. Fifty years later, his wife discovered a

scrapbook full of documents, photos, and transport plans revealing Winton's role in the rescue operation for the first time.

Screenings: Sunday, November 4, at 11:30 a.m., with Peter A. Rafaeli, Hon. Consul General of the Czech Republic, and translator, *Nicholas Winton's Lottery of Life*. Thursday, November 8, at 3:00 p.m.

Hava Nagila (The Movie) (in English)

Featuring interviews with Harry Belafonte, Connie Francis, and Leonard Nimoy, *Hava Nagila (The Movie)* follows the song from the shtetls of Eastern Europe to the kibbutzim of Palestine to the cul-de-sacs of America. The film excavates the layers of cultural complexity with humor, depth, and heart and reveals the power of one song to transmit lessons across generations and to bridge cultural divides.

A reception for young professionals will be held in the lobby prior to the film screening.

Screening: Sunday, November 4, at 7:15 p.m., with Roberta Grossman, director.

Dusk (Hebrew and Spanish with English subtitles)

Writer-director Alon Zingman skillfully interweaves four stories involving parent-child relationships. A young woman returning from Peru is met by her father at Ben Gurion Airport, a young mother accidentally discovers that she was adopted, and an Argentine woman and her school-age son board a bus for his circumcision at a Tel Aviv hospital. A hit-and-run car accident turns these ordinary lives upside down, challenging children's expectations and their parents' need to do the right thing.

Screening: Sunday, November 4, at 2:15 p.m., with remarks by Professor Yael Zerubavel, director, Bildner Center, Rutgers University.

Foreign Letters (English, Hebrew, and Vietnamese with English subtitles)

When twelve-year-old Ellie's family emigrates from Israel to Connecticut, she is lonely and homesick. Life brightens when she meets Thuy, a classmate and Vietnamese refugee. Pegged as "different" by the popular crowd, the two girls become inseparable friends and teach each other about life in America. Based on the filmmaker's own experience, the film is a story about immigrants, prejudice, poverty, and the power of friendship.

Screening: Sunday, November 4, at 4:45 p.m., with Ela Thier, director, and Dalena Le, actress.

Free Men (French with English subtitles)

In German-occupied Paris in 1942, Younes, a young Algerian, earns his living as a black marketer. After his arrest by French police, Younes agrees to spy on the Paris mosque. When he befriends a young Algerian singer, he is drawn into the inner circle of the mosque. Younes is challenged to make a fateful decision once he discovers that the Imam is hiding Jews.

Screenings: Tuesday, November 6, at 3:00 p.m., with remarks by Professor Richard Serrano, Departments of French, and Women's and Gender Studies, Rutgers University. Thursday, November 8, at 7:30 p.m., with remarks by Professor Ethan Katz, History and Judaic Studies, University of Cincinnati.

Lenin in October (Hebrew and Russian with English subtitles)

Grisha's dream of opening his own restaurant can come true thanks to an unexpected inheritance from his uncle in Kiev. The catch: he must name it "Red October" and feature a bust of Lenin, not easy to find in modern-day Ashdod, Israel. Sculptor-comrade Vladnel imagines the restaurant's ushering in a proletarian utopia, and the staff threatens a strike. Food, family, and ideology clash in this offbeat comedy.

Screening: Tuesday, November 6, at 7:00 p.m., with remarks by Dr. Sasha Senderovich, Russian and East European Studies, Lafayette College.

Kaddish for a Friend (Arabic, German, and Russian with English subtitles)

Muslim teen Ali Messalam and his family move into Berlin's Kreuzberg area, where he is pressured by his friends to vandalize the apartment of his elderly, feisty Russian neighbor, Alexander Zamskoy. To avoid being deported, Ali's parents send him back to Zamskoy's place to repair the damage. This coming-of-age story, inspired by two real people, is a stirring feature debut by Moscow-born German filmmaker Leo Khasin.

Screenings: Thursday, November 8, at 12:30 p.m., with remarks by Professor Fatima Naqvi, Department of German, Rutgers University. Saturday, November 10, at 7:00 p.m.

Inventing Our Life: The Kibbutz Experiment (English and Hebrew w/English subtitles)

This film reveals the heartbreak and hope of the first 100 years of Israel's kibbutz movement as a new generation struggles to ensure its survival. Can the famed communal living experiment survive a new capitalist reality? How will painful reforms affect those who still believe in the kibbutz experience?

Screening: Sunday, November 11, at Noon, with remarks by Professor Ziva Galili, Department of History, Rutgers University.

Footnote (Hebrew with English subtitles)

Footnote is the story of a great rivalry between a father and son. The eccentric father seems a stubborn purist who challenges the establishment, while his son, Uriel, appears to strive on accolades and public recognition. But one day, the tables turn and the plot thickens as the father learns that he is to be awarded Israel's top academic prize. *Footnote* is a story of competition, admiration, and envy between father and son.

Screening: Sunday, November 11, at 2:15 p.m., with remarks by Professor Azzan Yadin-Israel, Department of Jewish Studies, Rutgers University

Hitler's Children (English, German, and Hebrew with English subtitles)

This film chronicles descendants of the most powerful figures in the Nazi regime, whose inherited family legacies left them permanently associated with one of the greatest crimes in history. What is it like for them to have grown up with a name that immediately raises images of murder and genocide? These personal and candid interviews reveal how those who did not choose to become "Hitler's children" attempt to cope with this legacy.

Screening: Sunday, November 11, at 2:30 p.m. Director invited.

Life in Stills (German and Hebrew with English subtitles)

At the age of ninety-six, Miriam Weissenstein never imagined that she would be facing a new chapter in her life. But when "the Photo House"—her late husband's life's work—was destined for demolition, she knew she needed help. Miriam and her grandson, Ben, join forces to save the shop and its nearly one million negatives that document Israel's defining moments. Despite the generation gap, their love, courage, and determination support them through a heart-wrenching journey, filled with humorous and touching moments.

Preceded by:

Music Man Murray (in English)

"What's an old man to do with almost half a million records? Watch Music Man Murray a story bigger than his collection." —NPR

Screenings: Sunday, November 11, at 7:15 p.m., with *Life in Stills* director Tamar Tal.
Thursday, November 1, at 12:30 p.m.

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