Rutgers Jewish Film Festival
Celebrating Twenty Years
November 3–17, 2019
We are tremendously grateful to the Karma Foundation—and its president Sharon Karmazin—for being the major sponsor of the festival. As we celebrate twenty years of exploring Jewish history, culture, and identity through film, we thank Sharon for two decades of leadership and vision, which have been instrumental to the festival’s success.

Thank you to the Film Festival Advisory Committee: Frankie Busch, Prof. Leslie Fishbein, Steven Gorelick, Sharon Karmazin, Aly Mandel, Marcel Rozencweig, Prof. Jeffrey Shandler, Prof. Nancy Sinkoff, and Prof. Yael Zerubavel (ex-officio)

Thank you to the Festival Team: Karen Small, Director; Sarah Portilla, Program Coordinator; Jenny Gehrmann, Senior Department Administrator; Sherry Endick, Administrative Assistant; Darcy Maher, Communications Coordinator. Interns: Ivette Gonzalez-Soto, Zach Kotzker, Anna Robinson

2000: Inaugural Festival
Our first festival presents five acclaimed films over six days.
The Unorthodox

Israel, 2018, 99 minutes
Hebrew with English subtitles
Director: Eliran Malka

When the daughter of Yakov Cohen, a printer in Jerusalem, is expelled from school because of her Sephardic background, he decides to fight back. He is just a regular guy with no connections. But he has the will and the passion to take action, and a belief that he and other Sephardic Jews deserve to be proud of their heritage. Based on real events from 1983, The Unorthodox tells a remarkable underdog story, leading to the creation of the Shas political party in Israel. Rich in comedy and drama, the film also has a terrific soundtrack.

Sunday, November 3  ·  7:30PM
New Brunswick Performing Arts Center

Tuesday, November 5  ·  3:30PM
AMC New Brunswick

Speaker at both screenings:
Eliran Malka, Director

NOMINATED: 14 Israeli Academy Awards, including Best Film, 2019
City of Joel
USA, 2018, 83 minutes
English
Director: Jesse Sweet
With unprecedented access, this film captures the conflict and drama surrounding Kiryas Joel, a village occupying a square mile within the town of Monroe in upstate New York that has become one of the fastest-growing Hasidic communities in the United States. When the secular residents of the larger township learn of Kiryas Joel’s desire to annex adjacent land to address its population growth, it sets off a turf and legal battle. The documentary presents people on all sides of a conflict—religious enthusiasts, dissidents, people who doubt their own faith, and residents of Monroe who want to protect their bucolic lifestyle—and raises complex issues about the boundaries of religious freedom in the United States.

Sunday, November 10 · 3:30PM
AMC New Brunswick
Speaker: Prof. Samuel Freedman, Columbia University

From Cairo to the Cloud: The World of the Cairo Geniza
Canada, USA, Egypt, France, Israel, UK, 2018
93 minutes
English
Director: Michelle Paymar
NEW JERSEY PREMIERE
This lively documentary tells the astonishing story of the discovery of a vast treasure trove of documents hidden for centuries in the “geniza,” or sacred storeroom, of an ancient synagogue in Fostat, Old Cairo. From sacred manuscripts to business accounts to personal letters in a variety of Jewish and non-Jewish languages, the Cairo Geniza contained the largest cache of Jewish historical documents ever found, revolutionizing our understanding of Jewish history and illuminating a thousand years of vibrant Jewish life in the heart of the Islamic world.

“Brilliantly conceived and executed.”
—Prof. Mark Cohen, Princeton University

Sunday, November 10 · 1:00PM
AMC New Brunswick

Tuesday, November 12 · 1:00PM
Princeton Garden Theatre
Fiddler: A Miracle of Miracles
USA, 2019, 92 minutes
English
Director: Max Lewkowicz

SPONSORED BY DAVID AND SYLVIA STEINER
This new documentary looks at the cultural history of one of the world's most beloved musicals. When Fiddler on the Roof opened on Broadway in 1964, it explored themes of tradition, religion, and anti-Semitism against a modern backdrop of radical social change. With rare archival footage and interviews with musical luminaries including Stephen Sondheim, Topol, and Lin-Manuel Miranda, the film explores the impact of this long-running, award-winning musical, including the true wonder of wonders—that audiences worldwide and for the last half century all claim the story as their own.

Thursday, November 7 • 12:30PM
AMC New Brunswick
Speaker: Prof. Marc Aronson, Rutgers University

Sunday, November 17 • Noon
AMC New Brunswick

“An exhilarating, expansive, warts-and-all look into 1964 Broadway phenomenon Fiddler on the Roof.”
—Peter Travers, Rolling Stone

Preceded by
The Fiddle
Israel, 2018, 9 minutes
Yiddish with English subtitles
Director: Asher Schwartz

This beautifully animated short film, based on Sholem Aleichem’s short story “The Fiddle,” tells the tale of a boy and his beloved fiddle. Narrated by the renowned Yiddish theater and Broadway actor Mike Burstyn.

MILESTONE
2005: 5,000 Tickets Sold
The film festival reaches a new level of success with larger audiences and ten films.
**Golda’s Balcony, The Film**
USA, 2019, 86 minutes
English
Director: Scott Schwartz

Tovah Feldshuh recreates 100 years of Jewish history, playing 45 different characters (including David Ben-Gurion, Moshe Dayan, and, of course, Golda Meir herself) in this new film. Her Tony Award-nominated play, *Golda’s Balcony*, was the longest-running one-woman show in Broadway history. Rare, multi-camera footage from the play’s original run was recently unearthed and assembled into this riveting film.

★ **WINNER: 10 Audience Awards at all of its Competitive Film Festivals to Date**

**Wednesday, November 13 • 1:00PM**
AMC New Brunswick
Speaker: David Fishelson, Producer

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**Latter Day Jew**
USA, 2019, 85 minutes
English
Director: Aliza Rosen

With a poignant mix of hilarity and seriousness, *Latter Day Jew* follows H. Alan Scott, a gay writer-comedian, cancer survivor, and former Mormon who becomes a Jew by choice. His family embraces his new spiritual path as he visits Israel and prepares for his Bar Mitzvah.

**Wednesday, November 13 • 7:30PM**
AMC New Brunswick

**Thursday, November 14 • 4:00PM**
AMC New Brunswick
Speakers at both screenings: Aliza Rosen, Director, and H. Alan Scott

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**MILESTONE**

**2009: 10th Festival**
The festival’s ten-year anniversary presents the largest selection of films yet—fourteen films from around the globe.
Leona
Mexico, 2018, 95 minutes
Spanish with English subtitles
Director: Isaac Cherem

An intimate and moving film, Leona tells the story of Ariela, an independent-minded artist who lives with her family in a traditional Jewish neighborhood in Mexico City. Pressured to find a suitable match by her well-meaning if overprotective family, she instead falls for Ivan, a non-Jewish writer. Ariela finds herself torn between her family and forbidden love as she struggles to make difficult choices regarding her career and love life.

★ WINNER: Best Actress, Morelia International Film Festival, Mexico, 2018

Saturday, November 9 · 7:15PM
AMC New Brunswick

Monday, November 11 · 1:00PM
Princeton Garden Theatre

Sunday, November 17 · 2:45PM
AMC New Brunswick
Speaker: Prof. Jorge Reina Schement, Rutgers University

Love, Antosha
USA, 2019, 92 minutes
English
Director: Garret Price

An affectionate look at the young actor Anton Yelchin, who played an endearing young Chekov in the new Star Trek movies. His Russian-Jewish parents were renowned ice skaters who came to the United States in order to give him a better life. A young artist with a prolific career in film and television, Yelchin died in a tragic accident at the age of twenty-seven. Narrated by Nick Nolte and including interviews with colleagues, family, and friends, including Chris Pine, Jennifer Lawrence, and J. J. Abrams, the documentary paints a broad portrait of an intensely authentic and gifted artist.

Rated R
★ OFFICIAL SELECTION: Sundance Film Festival, 2019

Saturday, November 16 · 9:30PM
AMC New Brunswick

“The film is incredible and I think it’ll show you all different sides of the guy that I knew—this curious, fascinating, complex, strange little dude.”
—Chris Pine

BildnerCenter.Rutgers.edu/film 7
The Mover
Latvia, 2019, 87 minutes
Latvian with English subtitles
Director: Dāvis Sīmanis

NEW JERSEY PREMIERE
Based on the true story of “Latvia’s Schindlers,” this award-winning feature film offers a gripping account of Žanis Lipke, honored as one of the “Righteous among the Nations” for his heroic deeds in Latvia during World War II. Despite the hardship that members of the Lipke family endured under successive Soviet and German occupations, they embarked on a covert operation to save local Jews, moving them from the Riga ghetto to an underground bunker hidden on their property. The Lipkes are credited with saving about 40 of the 200 Jews in Latvia who survived the war.

★ WINNER: Best Director, among other awards, Latvian National Film Awards, 2018

Tuesday, November 5 • 1:00PM
AMC New Brunswick

Sunday, November 10 • 5:00PM
AMC New Brunswick

The Museum
Israel, 2017, 74 minutes
English and Hebrew with English subtitles
Director: Ran Tal

Going behind-the-scenes at the Israel Museum in Jerusalem, this award-winning film takes viewers on an immersive exploration of one of Israel’s most important cultural institutions. Filmed during the museum’s fiftieth-anniversary celebrations, the documentary follows the daily routine of a colorful cast of characters—the museum director, a singing security guard, a Palestinian guide, and a host of other museum staff and visitors—with surprising humor, human stories, precious art, and the unfolding of the history of Israel.

★ WINNER: 5 Awards, Israeli Documentary Filmmakers Forum, 2018
★ NOMINATED: Best Documentary Feature, Israel’s Academy Awards, 2018

Sunday, November 17 • 2:15PM
AMC New Brunswick
Speaker: James Snyder, Executive Chairman, Jerusalem Foundation; Former Director, Israel Museum

“It captures the extraordinary vitality and variety of the Israel Museum.”
—Hannah Brown, Jerusalem Post
My Polish Honeymoon
France, 2019, 88 minutes
French with English subtitles
Director: Élise Otzenberger

NEW JERSEY PREMIERE
When Anna and Adam, a young Parisian Jewish couple, embark on their long-awaited honeymoon, Poland seems an unlikely choice. But this seemingly lighthearted comedy soon takes on a darker tone. As they explore the country, searching in vain for evidence of past family connections, they confront modern-day anti-Semitism and their own families’ silence about the past.

★ WINNER: Fipresci Prize, Moscow International Film Festival, 2019

Thursday, November 14 • 1:00PM
Thursday, November 14 • 7:30PM
AMC New Brunswick

Speaker at both screenings:
Elise Otzenberger, Director

The Other Story
Israel, 2018, 112 minutes, Hebrew with English subtitles
Director: Avi Nesher

Two rebellious young women—one fleeing the chaos of secular hedonism for the disciplined comforts of faith, the other desperate to transcend her religious upbringing for sexual and spiritual freedom—cross paths unexpectedly in Jerusalem with startling consequences. This poignant drama from renowned Israeli filmmaker Avi Nesher plumbs the divide between Israel’s secular and religious Jews.

★ WINNER: Best Director, Israeli Film Critics Association Awards, 2018
★ OFFICIAL SELECTION: Toronto International Film Festival, 2018

Thursday, November 7 • 3:30PM
AMC New Brunswick
Speaker: Prof. Michal Raucher, Rutgers University
Saturday, November 9 • 9:30PM
AMC New Brunswick

2012: School Screening
In service to the Bildner Center’s mission to promote Holocaust education, the festival adds a free screening for public school students.
**The Allen and Joan Bildner Center**

**Rutgers Jewish Film Festival**

**NOVEMBER**

**Opening Night at the New Brunswick Performing Arts Center**

**Sunday, November 3**

- **5:00PM**
  - Opening Night Gala Dinner
- **7:30PM**
  - The Unorthodox

**Screenings at the Allen and Joan Bildner Center**

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<td>Those Who Remained</td>
<td>Tel Aviv on Fire</td>
<td>City of Joel</td>
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- **1:00PM**
  - From Cairo to the Cloud
- **5:00PM**
  - The Mover

For ticket information, please contact:

Email: rujff@sa.rutgers.edu
Phone: 848-445-4850

Opening Night Gala Dinner

**7:30PM**

The Unorthodox
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<td>7:00PM The Song of Names</td>
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FILMMAKER SPOTLIGHT

The Spy Behind Home Plate

USA, 2019, 96 minutes, in English
Director: Aviva Kempner

This feature-length documentary about the enigmatic baseball player Moe Berg focuses on a little-known Jewish hero. From the streets of Newark to five major league teams during baseball’s golden age, to his secret life spying for the Office of Strategic Services during World War II, Berg’s improbable story is told with rare historical footage and revealing interviews with family and an all-star roster from the worlds of history, sports, and spy craft.

Sunday, November 10 · 12:30PM
AMC New Brunswick

Monday, November 11 · 7:30PM
Princeton Garden Theatre

Speaker at both screenings: Aviva Kempner

Stockholm

Israel, 2018, 155 minutes
Hebrew with English subtitles
Director: Daniel Syrkin

ISRAELI TV SERIES— BINGE WATCH ALL FOUR EPISODES!

When a leading contender for the Nobel Prize in Economics is found dead in his bed, his four closest friends scramble to keep it a secret in the increasingly hectic days leading up to the big announcement. Stockholm is a fast-paced Israeli TV series about the resilience of friendship in the twilight years, told with no shortage of wit and heart. Its stellar cast, including Dov Glickman (Shtisel) and Sasson Gabai (The Band’s Visit, The Other Story), strikes the perfect balance of humor and drama with irreverence and chutzpah.

Tuesday, November 5 · 7:00PM
AMC New Brunswick

Acclaimed documentary filmmaker Aviva Kempner has been making films since 1972. With incredible depth and sophistication, her films focus on non-stereotypical figures of Jewish history and celebrate their untold stories. Three of Aviva’s films have screened previously in the RUJFF: The Life and Times of Hank Greenberg (2000), Yoo-Hoo, Mrs. Goldberg (2009), and Rosenwald (2015).

2016: Expanding to Princeton

Now bigger and more inclusive than ever, the festival expands to new venues such as the historic Princeton Garden Theatre.
Tel Aviv on Fire
Israel, 2018, 97 minutes
Hebrew and Arabic with English subtitles
Director: Sameh Zoabi
This critically acclaimed film explores the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in a satirical comedy. When Salam, a hapless young Palestinian man with no experience in the television business, begins work on a soap opera filmed in Ramallah, his daily commute takes him through an Israeli checkpoint. IDF officer Assi soon discovers Salam’s connection to the show—and his own wife’s obsession with it—so he uses his power to become Salam’s secret writing partner. With both men now invested in the soap’s narrative arc, Salam has to concoct plot twists to suit viewers on both sides.
★ WINNER: Best Film, Haifa International Film Festival and Venice Film Festival, 2018
★ NOMINATED: 4 Israeli Academy Awards, including Best Film, 2019

Sunday, November 10 • 7:00PM
AMC New Brunswick

Tuesday, November 12 • 7:30PM
Princeton Garden Theatre

Saturday, November 16 • 7:15PM
AMC New Brunswick

“Sharp-eyed and funny.”—A. O. Scott, New York Times

Those Who Remained
Hungary, 2019, 83 minutes
Hungarian with English subtitles
Director: Barnabás Tóth
NEW JERSEY PREMIERE
Set in 1949 Budapest, Aldo and Klara have both lost everyone they loved to the ravages of World War II. A survivor of the camps, forty-two-year-old Aldo lives a solitary life as a doctor, while teenage Klara lives reluctantly with her great-aunt, holding on to hope that her parents will return. When Klara meets Aldo, she finds the father figure missing from her life and hope begins to return for both of them. But their father-daughter relationship is misunderstood by Communist officials and complicated by Klara’s burgeoning sexuality. A lyrical story of the healing power of love told through the eyes of a young woman in post–World War II Hungary.
★ OFFICIAL SELECTION: Opening night, Telluride Film Festival, 2019

Thursday, November 7 • 7:30PM
AMC New Brunswick
Speaker: Barnabás Tóth, Director

Wednesday, November 13 • 3:30PM
AMC New Brunswick
Speaker: Prof. Debórah Dwork, Bildner Visiting Scholar, Rutgers University
Wondrous Oblivion
France, UK, Germany, 2003, 106 minutes
English
Director: Paul Morrison

RETURNING FESTIVAL FAVORITE
Eleven-year-old David Wiseman is mad about cricket, but hopeless at the game. When a Jamaican family moves in next door and builds a cricket net in the backyard, David is in seventh heaven. But when anti-Semitic neighbors shift their prejudice onto the new arrivals, David’s family is caught in the middle, and he has to choose between fitting in and standing up for his new friends. Oscar-nominated director Paul Morrison delivers a charming and moving coming-of-age drama offering a view into a working-class Jewish community in 1960s London.

Sunday, November 17 • 4:30PM
AMC New Brunswick

“What began as an innocent coming-of-age tale swerves into adult territory.”
—Jeanette Catsoulis, New York Times

The Song of Names
Canada, UK, Germany, Hungary, 2019, 113 Minutes
English
Director: François Girard

Academy Award nominees Tim Roth and Clive Owen star in this sweeping historical drama about a man’s search for his childhood best friend—a Polish violin prodigy orphaned in the Holocaust—who vanished decades before on the night of his debut performance. The latest work from acclaimed director François Girard (The Red Violin), The Song of Names is based on Norman Lebrecht’s novel of the same name.

★ OFFICIAL SELECTION: Toronto International Film Festival, 2019

Sunday, November 17 • 7:00PM
AMC New Brunswick

MILESTONE
2019: 20th Film Festival
Celebrating twenty years of Jewish history, culture, and identity, with eighteen films screening in three venues across New Jersey.
20th Anniversary Special Events

Movie at the Museum—Wednesday, September 25 • 4:30PM
Cosponsored by the Zimmerli Art Museum

The Museum
Israel, 2017, 74 minutes, English and Hebrew with English subtitles • Director: Ran Tal

Film screening and discussion with Joan Rosenbaum, Former Director, Jewish Museum, and Thomas Sokolowski, Director, Zimmerli Art Museum
See page 8 for film information.

Location: Zimmerli Art Museum, 71 Hamilton Street, New Brunswick
Free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be served. RSVP to rujff@sas.rutgers.edu.

Veterans Appreciation Program—Friday, October 18 • 2:00PM
Cosponsored by the Rutgers Office of Veteran and Military Programs and Services

Footsteps of My Father
USA, 2018, 38 minutes, in English • Director: Paul Allman

Film screening and discussion—This short documentary explores the heroism of Master Sergeant Roddie Edmonds in saving the lives of 200 Jewish American soldiers during World War II. The narrative is told through the lens of Edmonds’s son, Pastor Chris Edmonds, and several Jewish American prisoners of war.

Location: Alexander Library, 169 College Avenue, New Brunswick
Free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be served. RSVP to rujff@sas.rutgers.edu.

Holocaust Education Screening for Students
Witness Theater
Director: Oren Rudavsky

This documentary follows a unique encounter between Holocaust survivors and high school students in Brooklyn over the course of a year. Their intergenerational journey culminates in a dramatic staging of the survivors’ stories of resolve and survival. A free matinee screening for middle and high school students in collaboration with the Littman Holocaust Resource Center.

Special Ticket Packages

$125 OPENING NIGHT GALA DINNER AND FILM
$20 OPENING NIGHT FILM—The Unorthodox
$60 FESTIVAL DISCOUNT PACKAGE
Tickets to five films of your choice.*
$120 FESTIVAL FLEX PASS
Ten tickets to any combination of films—customize your festival experience.*

* Not valid for opening night
Lead Sponsor

The Karma Foundation

Endowed Film Program
David and Sylvia Steiner

Opening Night Sponsor
The Blanche and Irving Laurie Foundation

Film Director Sponsors
BNE Real Estate Group
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Funding provided by School of Arts and Sciences

Rutgers
School of Arts and Sciences

We would also like to thank these additional sponsors:
Support the Rutgers Jewish Film Festival
Become a Patron

Patrons may receive: Passes to all films; reserved seating—bypass the general admission line; opening night dinner with filmmakers and other special guests; name in the festival brochure and on the Bildner Center website. Donations are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

PATRON PASSES: Gold $1,500 (2 passes) · Silver $950 (2 passes) · Bronze $475 (1 pass)

We are grateful for the support of all our donors.
(List at time of printing.)
TICKET INFORMATION

Get your tickets in advance—screenings often sell out!
Tickets go on sale Thursday, October 3.

Ticket Prices

**$14** General | **$12** Senior | **$6** Student
**$20** Opening Night Film—The Unorthodox
**$125** Opening Night Gala Dinner and Film
**$60** Festival Discount Package—Tickets to five films of your choice.*
**$120** Festival Flex Pass—Ten tickets to any combination of films—customize your festival experience.*

* Not valid for opening night

How to Purchase Tickets

Online

BildnerCenter.Rutgers.edu ($3.50 fee applied to each order).

Print your tickets at home for your convenience, or select the Mail option if purchased by October 20. Tickets purchased after that date are available only via the Print at Home or Will Call option. Will Call tickets will be available for pickup in the venue's lobby the day of the screening.

In-Person (cash or check only)

(1) Monroe Township Senior Center, 12 Halsey Reed Road, Monroe Township, NJ
Monday, October 7, 10:00AM–1:00PM

(2) Bildner Center, 12 College Avenue, New Brunswick, NJ, October 3–25
(Mondays–Thursdays, 9:00AM–4:30PM, Fridays, 9:00AM–3:00PM)

(3) Festival Venues: During the festival, any available tickets will be on sale one hour prior to the start of the day’s first show. Tickets may be purchased only at the film festival table.

General Information

- No phone or mail orders accepted. All orders are final; no exchanges or refunds.
- Ticket availability will be updated regularly on the film festival website.
- The Rutgers Jewish Film Festival is not responsible for tickets lost in the mail.
- General seating for all films—first come, first served. Reserved seating section for Patron pass holders only.
- Check ticket orders carefully, as films are shown in three venues this year.
- No other tickets or passes accepted.

Festival Venues

**New Brunswick Performing Arts Center (NBPAC)**
11 Livingston Avenue
New Brunswick, NJ 08901
732-745-8000

**AMC New Brunswick**
17 US Highway #1
New Brunswick, NJ 08901
732-846-2275

**The Princeton Garden Theatre**
160 Nassau Street
Princeton, NJ 08542
609-279-1999
Thursday, September 12, 7:30PM
The Ruth and Alvin Rockoff Annual Program
Desert in the Promised Land
Nature, Settlement, and the Politics of Space
Yael Zerubavel, Rutgers University

Sunday, October 6, 4:00PM
The Raoul Wallenberg Annual Program, funded by Leon and Toby Cooperman
Panel discussion
Paul Robeson, “Negro-Jewish” Unity, and the “Jewish People’s Movement” in the 1940s Legacy and Challenges
Cosponsored by the Paul Robeson Centennial Celebration at Rutgers

Tuesday, December 10, 7:30PM
More Than Just Mosaics
The Ancient Synagogue at Huqoq in Israel’s Galilee
Jodi Magness, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Supported by the Sagner Family Foundation

March 3
Letters to Erich
A performance and lecture featuring jazz pianist Ted Rosenthal
Cosponsored by Mason Gross School of the Arts
Support provided by the Association for Jewish Studies

March 25
Exile: Music from Early Modern Jewish Europe
Presented by the ensemble Incantare in conjunction with Rebecca Cypess, Mason Gross School of the Arts, Rutgers

March 29
Jerusalem: City of the Book
Benjamin Balint, Fellow, Van Leer Institute
Father Columba Stewart, Executive Director, Hill Museum & Manuscript Library
Bedross Der Matossian, President of the Society for Armenian Studies

Mondays: April 20, 27; May 4
Stories and Other Prose by Israeli Nobel Laureate S. Y. Agnon
Mini-course taught by Curt Leviant, Professor Emeritus of Jewish Studies at Rutgers, Novelist, and Translator

Lectures are free and open to the public.
RSVP to rsvpBildner@sas.rutgers.edu, 848-932-2033, or on our website.
BildnerCenter.Rutgers.edu
The Allen and Joan Bildner Center for the Study of Jewish Life

FILM FESTIVAL
CONTACT INFORMATION:
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848-932-4166
BildnerCenter.Rutgers.edu

The Allen and Joan Bildner Center for the Study of Jewish Life
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