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EDITOR'S NOTE: Please contact the Allen and Joan Bildner Center for the Study of Jewish Life at 732-932-2033 or go to www.jewishstudies.rutgers.edu.

**ANIMATED FILMS AND VINTAGE TV EPISODES ARE AMONG OFFERINGS
SHOWCASED AS RUTGERS NEW JERSEY JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL
CELEBRATES TENTH ANNIVERSARY**

NEW BRUNSWICK, N.J. – The tenth annual Rutgers New Jersey Jewish Film Festival brings central New Jersey eighteen diverse, critically acclaimed, international productions, as well as discussions with film directors and scholars. Held November

1 – 10, 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 by the Karma Foundation.

Through dramas, documentaries, shorts, and vintage television, the festival will explore a broad range of topics, including exotic Jewish communities in India and Peru, Holocaust memory, Jews in France, Israel's complex relationship with Palestinians, and the portrayal of American Jews on television. A number of the films screened will be New Jersey or United States premieres.

Opening night will feature the 2007 award winning French drama *A Secret*, preceded by a celebratory tenth anniversary buffet dinner and dessert reception for Patrons of the festival. The festival will also present the United States debut of the 2009 Israeli documentary *Amnon's Journey*, and will offer a special guest appearance by the film's director Jean-Marie Hosatte. The closing night screening of the film will include a live performance by Israeli violinists Guy Figer and Shir Levy.

For the first time the festival will include animated films: Ari Folman's *Waltz with Bashir*, Israel's first animated feature film, and winner of the Golden Globe for best foreign film, and the 2005 British short *The Holocaust Tourist*, an experimental piece that looks at the dark side of Holocaust tourism.

Aviva Kempner's documentary film, *Yoo-hoo, Mrs. Goldberg*, portrays the best loved Jewish mother on television, whose show *The Goldbergs* became the prototype for the family sitcom. Before *I Love Lucy*, Gertrude Berg was a regular guest in America's living rooms. David

and Sylvia Steiner will sponsor the screening of Kempner's documentary film, with a special guest appearance by the director. The festival will also screen three archival episodes of the television series *The Goldbergs*.

Tickets are now on sale and advance purchase is strongly recommended. Ticket information is available from jewishstudies.rutgers.edu or by calling the Bildner Center at 732-932-4166. Film tickets are priced from \$5 to \$10 and are currently available online, by mail, at the Bildner Center, and at Trio Gifts, 246 Raritan Ave., Highland Park. Tickets ordered by Oct. 19 will be mailed to the purchaser. Ticket orders received after this date will be available at the Bildner Center's "will call" table at the Regal Cinema during the festival. Tickets may also be purchased at the theater subject to availability, one hour prior to the start of the day's first screening. Check jewishstudies.rutgers.edu for film updates and ticket availability.

Following is a full listing of offerings at the festival:

A Secret French with English subtitles

A Secret follows the saga of a Jewish family in post-World War II Paris. François, a solitary, imaginative child, invents a brother for himself as well as the story of his parents' past. On his fifteenth birthday, he discovers a dark family secret that ties his family's history to the Holocaust and shatters his illusions forever. Adapted from Philippe Grimbert's celebrated novel, *Memory*.

Screening: Sunday, November 1, at 7:00 p.m., with Professor Annette Insdorf, director of Undergraduate Film Studies, Columbia University, and author of the landmark book *Indelible Shadows: Film and the Holocaust*. There will be an additional screening on Sunday, November 8 at 1:00 p.m. with remarks by Professor Annette Aronowicz, Robert F. and Patricia G. Cohn Weis Chair of Judaic Studies, Franklin and Marshall College.

The Goldbergs English

The Goldbergs, a brilliant show created by and starring Gertrude Berg, premiered on radio in 1929 and on TV in 1949. Gertrude Berg was exceptional as the Jewish mother Molly Goldberg, who dispensed advice and a whole lot of common sense as she chatted with neighbors outside the window of her tenement building in the Bronx. Three archival episodes capturing the heart of the series will be screened in this program.

Screenings: Sunday, November 1 at 1:00 p.m. and Thursday, November 5 at 3:45 p.m.

Yoo-Hoo, Mrs. Goldberg English

This documentary pays fitting tribute to the legendary Gertrude Berg, creator and star of the long-running television program *The Goldbergs*. A pioneer in a male-driven industry, Berg took home the first Best Actress Emmy and invented product placement. Berg's appeal as Jewish mother extraordinaire transcended both race and religion.

Screening: Sunday, November 1 at 3:15 p.m. with a special guest appearance by Director Aviva Kempner. An additional screening will be held Thursday, November 5 at 1:30 p.m. Speaker to be announced.

DOUBLE FEATURE

Life in an Enclave is a series of documentary films that examine the distinct challenges of the Ultra-Orthodox Jewish community living in the modern State of Israel:

Gevald! Hebrew with English Subtitles

Part I: *Gevald!* juxtaposes the experiences of two community leaders: a radical anti-Israel organizer and a veteran politician in the Knesset. Both find their perspectives challenged as national elections approach.

with

The Rabbi's Daughter and the Midwife

Hebrew with English subtitles

Part II: *The Rabbi's Daughter and the Midwife* offers a portrait of two women who create positive change from within their community. One, the daughter of Rabbi Ovadiah Yosef, establishes Israel's first Ultra-Orthodox academic institution of higher education, and the other, a nurse and midwife, creates an internationally recognized charitable foundation.

Screening: Sunday, November 1 at 12:30 p.m., with Allan Nadler, a professor of Religious Studies and director of the Jewish Studies Program at Drew University

The Little Traitor

Hebrew and English with English subtitles

Based on a novel by Amos Oz and set in the final months of the British Mandate of Palestine, *The Little Traitor* is the lyrical story of an unlikely friendship between an English sergeant and a twelve-year-old boy who longs for Israel's statehood. Caught between his hatred of the British and his affection for Sergeant Dunlop, Proffy soon discovers that the course of his young life has been changed forever.

Screenings: Sunday, November 1 at 3:30 p.m. and Saturday, November 7 at 7:00 p.m.

Valentina's Mother

Polish and Hebrew with English subtitles

Paula, an elderly Holocaust survivor, develops an obsession with Valentina, her young Polish home-care worker who happens to have the same name as a beloved childhood friend. Through touching performances, the film hauntingly evokes Paula's growing confusion between the past and the present.

Screening: Tuesday, November 3 at 12:30 p.m. Speaker to be announced. Sunday, November 8 at 7:30 p.m. with Professor Ariella Lang, Aresty Visiting Scholar, Bildner Center, Rutgers University.

Lemon Tree

Hebrew and Arabic with English subtitles

When the Israeli defense minister builds a new home alongside Salma's lemon grove, security forces declare the Palestinian widow's trees a threat to his safety. As she takes her case to the Israeli Supreme Court, Salma finds both forbidden romance and an unexpected ally. Based on real events, *Lemon Tree* explores the complexities of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Screenings: Tuesday, November 3 at 3:00 p.m. and Saturday, November 7 at 9:15 p.m. Speaker for both screenings: Muli Peleg, the Schusterman Visiting Scholar in Israel Studies, Bildner Center, Rutgers University.

Waltz with Bashir

Hebrew with English subtitles

In this stunning animated documentary, director Ari Folman offers a memoir shaped by his own experience as a soldier in Lebanon who witnessed the civilian massacres in the summer of 1982. With his own memory of the tragedy limited to a recurring nightmare, Folman pieces together flashbacks shared by fellow Israeli soldiers in order to confront history and his own culpability during the war.

Screening: Thursday, November 5 at 7:30 p.m. with Professor Yuval Neria, Department of Psychiatry, Columbia University, College of Physicians and Surgeons and director, Trauma and PTSD Program, New York State Psychiatric Institute. An additional screening will be held Sunday, November 8 at 4:00 p.m. Speaker to be announced.

And Along Come Tourists Polish, English, and German with English subtitles

Opting to fulfill his German civil service abroad, Sven is ill prepared for his assignment at the Auschwitz Museum, where his responsibilities include caring for the elderly Stanislaw, a former camp inmate. Struggling with the contradictions of present-day Oswiecim as the tourist industry swells around the camp, Sven must come to terms with his own role in preserving the memory of the site.

Preceded by the short film:

The Holocaust Tourist English

A wry animated documentary that looks at the post-Holocaust legacy in Poland. A whistle-stop tour that includes tour buses at Auschwitz and Krakow's kitsch Judaica, questions how tourism may be changing history.

Screening: Tuesday, November 3 at 7:30 p.m. with Professor Michael Levine, Department of German, Rutgers University. An additional screening will be held Tuesday, November 10 at 12:30 p.m.

DOUBLE FEATURE

Two films that explore exotic Jewish communities:

In Search of the Bene Israel English and Hindi with English subtitles

This moving personal documentary follows the filmmaker's soulful journey to India, where she encounters the 2,000-year-old Bene Israel community of her grandmother's heritage. The film is an affectionate portrayal of a community in transition.

with

The Fire Within: Jews in the Amazonian Rainforest

English and Spanish with English subtitles

The Fire Within traces the remarkable story of the descendants of Moroccan Jewish adventurers who remained in the rain forest after the rubber boom of the 1800s. The film provides a fascinating glimpse of this lost Jewish community as it moves from Peru to Israel after its “rediscovery” by the wider Jewish world.

Screening: Sunday, November 8 at 12:15 p.m. with a special guest appearance by the film’s director, Lorry Salcedo Mitrani.

Being Jewish in France

French with English subtitles

This sweeping film explores the rich and complex history of Jews in the first country ever to grant them citizenship. Moving from the French Revolution and the Dreyfus Affair to Vichy collaboration with the Nazis and modern charges of rising anti-Semitism, *Being Jewish in France* presents a powerful selection of archival material, including clips from classic French cinema, and vivid interviews with leading French politicians, intellectuals, and artists.

Screening: Sunday, November 8 at 3:15 p.m.

Refusenik

English, Russian, and Hebrew with English subtitles

At the height of the Cold War, a grassroots movement to liberate Soviet Jewry from the repressive, anti-Semitic Communist regime began a thirty-year struggle that unquestionably altered the global human rights landscape. *Refusenik*, the first documentary to chronicle this defining period of Jewish activism, interweaves personal accounts from both sides of the Iron Curtain to demonstrate the power of the individual to change the world.

Screening: Sunday, November 8 at 7:00 p.m. Director invited. An additional screening will be held Tuesday, November 10 at 3:30 p.m. Speaker: To be announced.

Amnon’s Journey

French, Hebrew, and English with English subtitles

For ten years, master violin maker Amnon Weinstein went in search of violins played by Jews in the ghettos, camps, and forests during the Holocaust. He lovingly restored the instruments in his Tel Aviv workshop, bringing them back to life. This moving documentary depicts the intricate relationship between musicians and their instruments while giving voice to a lost generation. The film features virtuosos Shlomo Mintz, Yair Dalal, and Cihat Askin.

Screening: Tuesday, November 10 at 7:30 p.m. with a special guest appearance by Director Jean-Marie Hosatte. This screening will also include a performance by Israeli violinists Guy Figer and Shir Levy. An additional screening will be held Thursday, November 5 at 11:30 a.m. Speaker to be announced.

The Allen and Joan Bildner Center for the Study of Jewish Life connects the university with the community through public lectures, symposia, Jewish communal initiatives, cultural events, and teacher training.

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