NEW BRUNSWICK/PISCATAWAY, N.J. – Rutgers was among a select group of prestigious universities and colleges across America that was chosen to host a Schusterman Visiting Israeli Artist this year. Based at the Allen and Joan Bildner Center for the Study of Jewish Life, Moshe Zonder, a highly successful writer of screenplays for film and television, will serve in this role in fall 2018. The goal of the Israel Institute’s Schusterman artist program is to expose students, faculty, and the local community to the dynamic world of Israeli art and culture. His residency demonstrates the profound and ongoing commitment to Israel studies by the Bildner Center at Rutgers, while also allowing for cross cultural exchange and artistic collaboration both within the university and in the larger New Jersey community.

Zonder was the head writer for *Fauda*, the enormously successful television program that became the first Israeli series to be released as a Netflix Original. His many screenplays include the documentary film *Sabena Hijacking: My Version*, screened at the Rutgers Jewish Film Festival in 2016. He is currently working on several dramatic series for Israeli television and a play to be performed this fall at Habima, Israel’s national theater. Zonder began his career as an investigative journalist for the Israeli newspaper *Maariv*.

At Rutgers, Zonder will teach “Screenwriting for Television” in the Creative Writing Program and participate in outreach activities of the Bildner Center. On September 20, he will be a featured guest at a private screening and reception for Patrons of the Rutgers Jewish Film Festival. On November 11, he will participate on a panel, “Writing about True Events,” as part of the Rutgers Jewish Film Festival, held at the AMC Loews New Brunswick, 17 US Highway 1 South, New Brunswick. (Visit BildnerCenter.rutgers.edu/film for details.)

On October 11, from 7-9 pm, “Behind the Scenes of *Fauda*” will feature Zonder in conversation with Karen Small, director of the Rutgers Jewish Film Festival, at the Jewish
Community Center of Middlesex County. The event is open to the public with RSVP. (Visit [www.jccmc.org](http://www.jccmc.org) for details.)

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

The Schusterman Visiting Israeli Artist Program is a project of the Israel Institute, an independent, nonpartisan, and non-advocacy organization that advances rigorous teaching, research, and discourse about modern Israel in partnership with academic, research, and cultural institutions. Its campus teaching and artist residency programs increase the number, quality, and availability of classes about Israel by creating platforms for academics and artists to teach about Israel in the United States, Europe, and Asia.