



Press Book
21st Annual Mandell JCC Hartford Jewish Film Festival
March 16-26, 2017

Presented by
Mandell Jewish Community Center
Zachs Campus, 335 Bloomfield Avenue
West Hartford, CT 06117

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Interviews and Photos Available

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Official Film Festival Site: www.hjff.org

**Hoops, Heroes and Chutzpah at the 21st Annual Mandell JCC Hartford Jewish Film Festival
March 16-26, 2017; 18 Films from 10 Countries to Premiere in 5 Venues!**

(West Hartford, CT. February 1, 2017) A whirlwind adventure awaits with films that highlight the best of humanity at this year's 21st Annual Mandell JCC Hartford Jewish Film Festival, March 16 through 26, 2017. Connecticut's largest annual celebration of Jewish culture, history and people brings together beautiful and heartfelt stories of love and triumph, gripping documentaries, laugh out loud comedies, and soulful memories to this year's festival line up.

The festival opens with the touching true story of an underdog basketball team that brought hope to a nation with ***On the Map***, a slam dunk for sports fans. The romantic comedy, ***Moos***, reminds the audience of the importance of following your dreams, or having a plan B should all else fail. ***Supergirl*** saves the day in this documentary about an Orthodox Jewish girl from New Jersey who is training to be a powerlifter. And winner of 12 Ophir (Israeli Academy) Awards, the hit Israeli television show ***Shtisel*** takes a look at the complex world of life, love and family.

From there, the festival takes a turn for the dramatic with ***Fire Birds***, as detective Amnon solves a murder case that becomes deeply personal for him while uncovering a vast array of secrets he never expected. ***Hill Start*** is a romantic comedy with a twist, telling the tale of one family's life being turned upside down after a car accident leaves the family matriarch in a coma.

The festival gets gritty with the documentary of the ***Sabena Hijacking – My Version***, a thirty hour nerve-wracking political and military real-life drama of the events on a plane from Brussels to Tel Aviv in 1972. In ***AKA Nadia***, Maya Goldwasser is a successful choreographer, wife and mother with a big secret. ***The Man Who Saved the Louvre*** is a documentary highlighting the fascinating true story of Jacques Jaujard, who saved priceless works of art at the world-renowned museum from destruction by the Nazis. The festival also invites you to meet ***Big Sonia***, one of Kansas City's last remaining Holocaust survivors.

Take a trip down memory lane with ***Jerry Lewis: The Man Behind the Clown***, accompanied by the short film ***The Last Blintz***. Heartwarming heroics abound in ***My Hero Brother***, and faith is tested in ***The Women's Balcony***. Israel's latest hit comedy ***The Last Band in Lebanon*** will make you laugh out loud, while a painful truth is revealed in ***The Origin of Violence***. And find yourself questioning "Who's a good boy?" in the romantic comedy ***Mr. Predictable***. The festival closes with the powerful story of ***Fanny's Journey***, as a group of children desperately make their way from Italy to the Swiss border completely alone in 1943 Europe.

AMC Independent at Bloomfield 8, Cinapolis in Blue Back Square, The Emanuel Synagogue of West Hartford and Spotlight Theaters in Hartford, join the Mandell JCC as venue locations for the various screenings, along with festival funders, the Jewish Federation of Greater Hartford, the Jewish Community Foundation and the Mandell JCC Pillars Society. Special thanks to program partners The Maurice Greenberg Center for Judaic Studies at the University of

Hartford, Trinity College Hillel and Central Connecticut State University, and media sponsors the Jewish Ledger, Data Mail inc., Let's Go Arts Greater Hartford Arts Council, and iHeart Media.

TICKETS AND INFORMATION

Individual tickets to most films are \$12 in advance, \$15 at the door. Tickets for Thursday, March 16, 2017 Opening Night ***On the Map*** film and served lite bites are \$50 per person. The Sunday, March 26, 2017 Closing Night screening of ***Fanny's Journey*** and dessert reception are \$25 per person. Patron passes are on sale at the Box Office. \$1 discount is offered for students and Let's Go Arts card-holders.

Tickets for all shows are on sale at the Mandell JCC in person, via phone and by mail. Seating is limited, advance purchase is recommended. For films other than Opening Night, tickets will be sold at the door subject to availability; all seating is general admission and program is subject to change. All events are under Hartford Kashrut Commission supervision. For tickets, more information, directions and a Film Festival brochure, contact the Film Festival Box Office, Mandell JCC, Zachs Campus, 335 Bloomfield Avenue, West Hartford, CT. 06117, 860-231-6316, visit the official film festival website, www.hjff.org or contact the Member Services Center, 860-236-4571.

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SNEAK PREVIEWS

Opening Night

On the Map

Thursday, March 16, 2017

5:30pm – Lite bites served

7:30pm – Film

Mandell JCC

Zachs Campus

335 Bloomfield Ave.

West Hartford, CT. 06117

Connecticut Premiere

English, Hebrew with Subtitles, 2016, 90 minutes, documentary, Director: Dani Menkin.

Closed caption available.

When no one expects you to win, you have nothing to lose and everything to gain. This gripping, fast-paced, awe-inspiring documentary brings you back to Israel in 1977, where the nation is still reeling from the Yom Kippur War and hungry for something to celebrate. “On The Map,” directed by Dani Menkin and produced by Roberta Grossman and Nancy Spielberg, recounts how the Maccabi Tel Aviv team, led by Tal Brody and fielded by a ragtag bunch of American basketball players, against all odds defeated the Soviet Union European Champion team and put Israel firmly on the map. The film combines the pulse pounding action of a high-stakes game with an incendiary political situation at the height of the Cold War to deliver a film that honors Israeli heroes, mesmerizes fans of the game, and captures the spirit of a nation.

Sponsored by:

LAZ Parking, ZipPark, Cindy & Barry Lazowski, Marcia & Alan Lazowski and Dana & David Lazowski in honor of Rabbi Philip and Ruth Lazowski; Hartford Distributors Inc., Brescome Barton

Sneak Previews Continue on Page 4

MOOS

Saturday, March 18, 2017

9:00pm

Mandell JCC

Zachs Campus

335 Bloomfield Ave.

West Hartford, CT. 06117

Hartford Premiere

Dutch with English subtitles, Holland, 2016, 91 minutes, Romantic Comedy, Director: Job Gosschalk

Moos is letting life pass her by; cooking, cleaning and working for her widowed father. But when an unexpected visitor from her past arrives at Hanukkah, the visit shakes up her life and inspires Moos to begin revisiting her dream of attending the local theater school. In this funny and heart-warming film, Moos finds that talent is in the eye of the beholder, and you should always have an Option B.

Sponsored by:

Simsbury Bank

Sneak Previews Continue on Page 6

Supergirl

Sunday, March 19, 2017

1:00pm

Spotlight Theaters

39 Front Street

Hartford, CT 06103

Hartford Premiere

English, USA, 2016, 80 minutes, documentary, Director: Jessie Auritt.

When you think of powerlifters, you don't think of 11-year-old Naomi Kutin, but this 'Supergirl' is about to change your way of thinking. At only 95 pounds, this Orthodox Jewish girl from New Jersey has been competing since she was only eight-year-old, continues to smash world records, has become a social media sensation, and all while studying for her bat mitzvah. Even with all that success, the question remains, will the pressure of being a teen in an adult sporting world be too much for Supergirl?

Reel Talk to follow, featuring:

- Dr. Alyssa Bennett, MD, Connecticut Children's Medical Center, Adolescent Medicine
- Dr. Lisa Namerow, MD, Connecticut Children's Medical Center, Child and Adolescent Psychiatry
- Steve Boyle, CEO of The National Association of Physical Literacy (NAPL) and Principal/Founder of 2-4-1 Sports
- Moderated by Audrey Wise, VP Chief Marketing Officer, Connecticut Children's Medical Center

Sponsored by:

Connecticut Children's Medical Center, Women's Philanthropy Jewish Federation of Greater Hartford. Venue provided by Spotlight Theaters

Sneak Previews Continue on Page 7

Shtisel

Sunday, March 19, 2017

1:00pm

Spotlight Theaters

39 Front Street

Hartford, CT 06103

Winner of 12 Television Ophir Awards

Hebrew with English subtitles, Israel 2015, TV series, 2 episodes, approximately 50 minutes each.

The hit Israeli series is returns to the screen with Season Two of Shtisel. The show is centered around father and son Shulem and Akiva Shtisel (Dov Glickman and Michael Aloni), who share the same apartment in ultra-Orthodox Mea Shearim, the same cynical humor, and the same search for love and motherly warmth in a cold world. In the first episode of the season, Noaham and Libi return to Israel after years abroad. Noaham is Shulem's younger brother, and his beautiful daughter Libi will soon become Akiva's love interest. Noaham and Shulem fight over their mother's love and their children's future. Akiva's sister, Giti Weiss (Neta Riskin) and her husband Lipa (Zohar Strauss), cope with a new baby during a difficult time while their adolescent daughter Ruhami (Shira Haas) develops a surprising infatuation.

Sponsored by:

BESA Companions and Homemakers, LLC, Beth Berinstein and Sandra Berinstein, Women's Philanthropy Jewish Federation of Greater Hartford. Venue provided by Spotlight Theaters.

Sneak Previews Continue on Page 8

Fire Birds

Sunday, March 19, 2017

4:30pm

Spotlight Theaters

39 Front Street

Hartford, CT 06103

Hartford Premiere

Hebrew with subtitles, Israel 2015, 105 minutes, drama, Director: Amir I. Wolf

When 80-year-old Amikam's body is found with three stab wounds in his chest and a number tattoo on his forearm, the murder investigation lands on struggling police detective Amnon's desk. As a son of a Holocaust survivor, Amnon struggles with this deeply personal case, but is wholly unprepared for the secrets he uncovers as he investigates Amikam's murder.

Sponsored by:

The Rosalie H. and Jay D. Smith; Jewish Heritage Fund, Jewish Community Foundation of Greater Hartford, in memory of Rosalie Smith; and Glastonbury's Congregation Kol Haverim's Life Long Learning Committee and Sisterhood and Brotherhood. Venue provided by Spotlight Theaters.

Hill Start

Sunday, March 19, 2017

4:30pm

Spotlight Theaters

39 Front Street

Hartford, CT 06103

Hartford Premiere

Hebrew with subtitles, Israel 2014, 92 minutes, romantic comedy, Director: Oren Stern

In this comic drama, Ora is in a coma as the result of a car accident. As her children and other family members try to help her regain consciousness, the viewer meets plastic surgeons, a wheelchair-bound marathon coach, a tough private investigator, a yoga instructor, a sensitive belly dancer, and a big star in the Arab cinema.

Sponsored by:

PASI, LLC, Ron Fishman and David Wetsman. Venue provided by Spotlight Theaters

Sneak Previews Continue on Page 9

Sabena Hijacking – My Version

Sunday, March 19, 2017

7:30pm

Spotlight Theaters

39 Front Street

Hartford, CT 06103

Nominated for the Best Documentary Ophir

Hebrew, French, Arabic, English with subtitles, Israel 2015, 104 minutes, docudrama, Director: Rani Sa'ar

On May 8, 1972 four hijackers from the Palestinian organization "Black September" took control of Belgian Sabena Flight 571 from Brussels to Tel Aviv. The hijacking marked the beginning of thirty nerve-wracking hours, together fascinating human, military, and political drama both inside and outside of the plane. "Sabena Hijacking - My Version," presents a cinematic reenactment of the events woven together with genuine archive material and exclusive interviews with three revered Israeli political leaders who were in charge of the rescue effort at the time, as well as the only surviving hijacker.

Sponsored by:

Brian Newman, CPA, Partner and the Partners of CohnReznick, LLP; Jewish Community Relations Council, Jewish Federation of Greater Hartford; The Rona Gollob Fund, Jewish Community Foundation of Greater Hartford. Venue provided by Spotlight Theaters

AKA Nadia

Sunday, March 19, 2017

7:30pm

Spotlight Theaters

39 Front Street

Hartford, CT 06103

Hebrew with subtitles, Israel/UK 2015, 115 min, Drama, Director: Tova Ascher

Maya Goldwasser is a 40 year old mother, successful choreographer, and wife of an Israeli official of the Ministry of Justice. And she has a secret. Her real name is Nadia Kabir, and for the first 20 years of her life, she lived with her Palestinian family in Jerusalem until she secretly married Nimer. Together they moved to England where he was a PLO activist. So what will happen when Nimer reenters her life by chance?

Sponsored by

Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. Venue provided by Spotlight Theaters

Sneak Previews Continue on Page 10

The Man Who Saved the Louvre

Monday, March 20, 2017

6:00pm

Mandell JCC

Zachs Campus

335 Bloomfield Ave.

West Hartford, CT 06117

Connecticut Premiere

French dubbed in English, France 2014, 60 minutes, documentary with animation, Directors:
Jean-Pierre Devillers & Pierre Pochard

As Paris was on the brink of Nazi invasion in World War II, one man, with a deep love of art, knew he had just days to act. Jacques Jaujard, the director of the Louvre, devised an intricate plan to hide some of the world's most important masterpieces and save them from Nazi destruction. Using interviews, rare footage (including Jaujard's notebook), and supported by a dynamic narration, animated sequences of the protagonists embedded in archives and footage shot in situ, this film tells the story of the little-known man who saved the Louvre.

Introduction by Thomas J. Loughman, PhD., Director of Art and CEO of the
Wadsworth Atheneum

Sponsored by:

Puritan Furniture Mart, Inc., Roberta, Bruce and Eliana Singer; Trinity College Hillel; The
Wadsworth Athenaeum

Sneak Previews Continue on Page 11

Big Sonia

Monday, March 20, 2017

8:15pm

Mandell JCC

Zachs Campus

335 Bloomfield Ave.

West Hartford, CT 06117

Hartford Premiere

English, USA 2016, 94 minutes, documentary, Director: Leah Warshawski

Sonia's larger-than-life personality masks the unspeakable horrors she has endured in her 90+ years. A Holocaust survivor, she survived a series of death marches and concentration camps and witnessed her mother walk into the gas chamber. When the war ended and liberation day came, Sonia was accidentally shot in the chest, but not only did she survive, she became the ultimate survivor. Sonia is one of the last remaining survivors in Kansas City and one of the only who publically speaks about her ordeal and she inspires everyone she meets to listen to her.

Sponsored by:

Voices of Hope - Second and Third Generations of Holocaust Survivors/Lisa & Peter Fishman and Marcia & Alan Lazowski

Sneak Previews Continue on Page 12

Jerry Lewis: The Man Behind the Clown

Tuesday, March 21, 2017

1:00pm

The Emanuel Synagogue

160 Mohegan Drive

West Hartford, CT 06117

English with some French subtitles, USA 2016, 60 minutes, documentary, Director: Gregory Munro

Who is the man behind the clown? For more than 50 years, critics and audiences have asked themselves this question. Revered in Europe but rejected in America, is Jerry Lewis a cultural genius or merely an overgrown buffoon? Known onscreen for his visual gags and slapstick humor, behind the camera Jerry Lewis was a meticulous, groundbreaking filmmaker who was a driving force in Hollywood. This documentary reflects on his life and his work through archival footage and interviews with friends and colleagues (including Martin Scorsese and Sean Hayes) as well as with Lewis himself.

Preceded by:

The Last Blintz

English, USA 2016, 30 minutes, documentary, Director: Dori Berinstein

The closing of The Cafe Edison (aka The Polish Tea Room), the Broadway diner immortalized in Neil Simon's 45 Seconds from Broadway, is not just a story about another famous show business haunt shutting its doors, it is the fading away of a piece of an America past.

Sponsored by:

Duncaster Boutique Community Living; The Jewish Historical Society of Greater Hartford. Venue provided by The Emanuel Synagogue

Sneak Previews Continue on Page 13

My Hero Brother

Tuesday, March 21, 2017

7:00pm

The Emanuel Synagogue

160 Mohegan Drive

West Hartford, CT 06117

Hartford Premiere

Hebrew with English subtitles, Israel 2016, 77 minutes, documentary

On the trek of a lifetime, adult siblings, one with Down Syndrome and one without, travel from Israel to India to hike through the Himalayas. As the hike intensifies, so do the family dynamics, forcing the siblings to confront unresolved feelings and the complexities of growing up as a pair of siblings with one having special needs. This heart-warming film is set against the richly colored scenery of India and will leave you with a deepened understanding of special needs adults and their families.

Reel Talk featuring:

-Anne Broadhurst

-Denis Geary

-Janet Gochberg

-Seth Lapuk, M.D.

-Janice Rothstein

Sponsored by:

Friends of Jamie; The Jewish Association for Community Living, Jewish Family Services of Greater Hartford. Venue provided by The Emanuel Synagogue.

Sneak Previews Continue on Page 14

The Women's Balcony

Wednesday, March 22, 2017

7:00pm

Cinepolis

42 S. Main Street

West Hartford, CT 06107

Connecticut Premiere

Nominated for 5 Ophir Awards

Hebrew with English subtitles, Israel 2016, 96 minutes, dramatic comedy, Director: Emil Ben Shimon

This tight-knit Orthodox community has gathered to celebrate a bar mitzvah when disaster strikes; the women's balcony comes crashing down. A young, charismatic Rabbi steps in and offers to help rebuild the synagogue, but is he also questioning why the balcony fell in the first place? Are the women not modest enough? Are they not observant enough? As the women fight to maintain their place in the synagogue, a rift is created within the once close-knit community. Featuring some of Israel's top women comics, this rousing, good-natured tale is a warm, humorous, and poignant portrait of a modern Orthodox community whose unity is imperiled by an arrogant interloper. Emil Ben Shimon's feature debut is a comical feminist narrative, at once rebellious and respectful in spirit, about finding the right path to happiness and the subjectivity of righteousness.

Sponsored by:

Key Bank

Sneak Previews Continue on Page 15

The Last Band in Lebanon

Wednesday, March 22, 2017

7:00pm

Cinapolis

42 S. Main Street

West Hartford, CT 06107

Hebrew, Arabic with English subtitles, Israel 2016, 102 minutes, comedy/action adventure,
Directors: Ben Bachar & Itzik Kricheli

Take one disbanded rock band, the final withdrawal of troops from Lebanon, add an ambitious IDF police officer and her quest to catch a corrupt drug-smuggling commander red-handed, and you have Israel's hottest new comedy hit! Three reserve soldiers with no combat experience must find their way back to Israel while caught between Hezbollah fighters and disgruntled members of the South Lebanon Army while only armed with a guitar.

Sponsored by:

BNY Mellon; Young Adult Division, Jewish Federation of Greater Hartford

The Origin of Violence

Thursday, March 23, 2017

7:00pm

Cinapolis

42 S. Main Street

West Hartford, CT 06107

Hartford Premiere

French with English subtitles, France 2016, 110 minutes, drama, Director: Elie Chouraqui

When Nathan Fabre, a French Catholic teacher visits Buchenwald, he sees a picture of a prisoner who is the spitting image of his father. Haunted by the picture, he returns to France and eventually unravels decades of long-buried, painful family secrets.

Sponsored by:

TD Bank

Sneak Previews Continue on Page 16

Encore Screening

Shtisel

Friday, March 24, 2017

11:00am

Mandell JCC

Zachs Campus

335 Bloomfield Ave.

West Hartford, Ct 06117

Winner of 12 Television Ophir Awards

Hebrew with English subtitles, Israel 2015, TV series, 2 episodes, approximately 50 minutes each.

The hit Israeli series is returns to the screen with Season Two of Shtisel. The show is centered around father and son Shulem and Akiva Shtisel (Dov Glickman and Michael Aloni), who share the same apartment in ultra-Orthodox Mea Shearim, the same cynical humor, and the same search for love and motherly warmth in a cold world. In the first episode of the season, Noaham and Libi return to Israel after years abroad. Noaham is Shulem's younger brother, and his beautiful daughter Libi will soon become Akiva's love interest. Noaham and Shulem fight over their mother's love and their children's future. Akiva's sister, Giti Weiss (Neta Riskin) and her husband Lipa (Zohar Strauss), cope with a new baby during a difficult time while their adolescent daughter Ruhami (Shira Haas) develops a surprising infatuation.

Sponsored by:

BESA Companions and Homemakers, LLC, Beth Berinstein and Sandra Berinstein, Women's Philanthropy Jewish Federation of Greater Hartford. Venue provided by Spotlight Theaters

Sneak Previews Continue on Page 17

Mr. Predictable

Saturday, March 25, 2017

9:00pm

Mandell JCC

Zachs Campus

335 Bloomfield Ave.

West Hartford, CT 06117

Hartford Premiere

Hebrew with English subtitles, Israel 2016, 103 minutes, romantic comedy, Director: Roei Floentin

Before Adi's father left, he made him promise to always be a good boy. And Adi always kept his promise; as a child, at school, in the military, as a husband and father. Until the day that Adi was told that his days were numbered. Then a chance meeting with Natalia, a young woman filled with a passion for life and big dreams, makes Adi reassess if it's better to keep a promise and be good, or live a happy life and be true to himself.

Sponsored by:

Farmington Bank

Encore Screening

AKA Nadia

Sunday, March 26, 2017

2:00pm

Bloomfield 8 Theaters

Wintonbury Mall

863 Park Ave.

Bloomfield, CT 06002

Hebrew with subtitles, Israel/UK 2015, 115 min, Drama, Director: Tova Ascher

Maya Goldwasser is a 40 year old mother, successful choreographer, and wife of an Israeli official of the Ministry of Justice. And she has a secret. Her real name is Nadia Kabir, and for the first 20 years of her life, she lived with her Palestinian family in Jerusalem until she secretly married Nimer. Together they moved to England where he was a PLO activist. So what will happen when Nimer reenters her life by chance?

Sponsored by

Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. Venue provided by Spotlight Theaters

Sneak Previews Continue on Page 18

Encore Screening

Sabena Hijacking – My Version

Sunday, March 26, 2017

2:00pm

Bloomfield 8 Theaters

Wintonbury Mall

863 Park Ave.

Bloomfield, CT 06002

Nominated for the Best Documentary Ophir

Hebrew, French, Arabic, English with subtitles, Israel 2015, 104 minutes, docudrama, Director:
Rani Sa'ar

On May 8, 1972 four hijackers from the Palestinian organization "Black September" took control of Belgian Sabena Flight 571 from Brussels to Tel Aviv. The hijacking marked the beginning of thirty nerve-wracking hours, together fascinating human, military, and political drama both inside and outside of the plane. "Sabena Hijacking - My Version," presents a cinematic reenactment of the events woven together with genuine archive material and exclusive interviews with three revered Israeli political leaders who were in charge of the rescue effort at the time, as well as the only surviving hijacker.

Sponsored by:

Brian Newman, CPA, Partner and the Partners of CohnReznick, LLP; Jewish Community Relations Council, Jewish Federation of Greater Hartford; The Rona Gollob Fund, Jewish Community Foundation of Greater Hartford. Venue provided by Spotlight Theater

Sneak Previews Continue on Page 19

Encore Screening

Hill Start

Sunday, March 26, 2017

4:15pm

Bloomfield 8 Theaters

Wintonbury Mall

863 Park Ave.

Bloomfield, CT 06002

Hartford Premiere

Hebrew with subtitles, Israel 2014, 92 minutes, romantic comedy, Director: Oren Stern

In this comic drama, Ora is in a coma as the result of a car accident. As her children and other family members try to help her regain consciousness, the viewer meets plastic surgeons, a wheelchair-bound marathon coach, a tough private investigator, a yoga instructor, a sensitive belly dancer, and a big star in the Arab cinema.

Sponsored by:

PASI, LLC, Ron Fishman and David Wetsman. Venue provided by Spotlight Theaters

Encore Screening

Fire Birds

Sunday, March 26, 2017

4:15pm

Bloomfield 8 Theaters

Wintonbury Mall

863 Park Ave.

Bloomfield, CT 06002

Hartford Premiere

Hebrew with subtitles, Israel 2015, 105 minutes, drama, Director: Amir I. Wolf

When 80-year-old Amikam's body is found with three stab wounds in his chest and a number tattoo on his forearm, the murder investigation lands on struggling police detective Amnon's desk. As a son of a Holocaust survivor, Amnon struggles with this deeply personal case, but is wholly unprepared for the secrets he uncovers as he investigates Amikam's murder.

Sponsored by:

The Rosalie H. and Jay D. Smith; Jewish Heritage Fund, Jewish Community Foundation of Greater Hartford, in memory of Rosalie Smith; and Glastonbury's Congregation Kol Haverim's Life Long Learning Committee and Sisterhood and Brotherhood. Venue provided by Spotlight Theaters

Sneak Previews Continue on Page 20

Closing Night

Fanny's Journey

Sunday, March 26, 2017

7:00pm

Dessert reception to follow

Mandell JCC

Zachs Campus

335 Bloomfield Ave.

West Hartford, CT 06177

Connecticut Premiere

French with English subtitles, France/Belgium 2016, 94 minutes, drama, Director: Lola Doillon

In 1943, Fanny Ben-Ami and her sisters were sent by their parents from France to an Italian foster home for Jewish children. When the Nazis arrived in Italy, a plan was devised to transport the children in small groups to Switzerland. As the escape plans got underway, 11 children were suddenly on their own with the impossible goal of reaching the Swiss border and ultimately safety. In this true story of bravery, strength and perseverance, Fanny will stop at nothing to survive.

Reel Talk featuring:

-Margot Jeremias

-Avinoam Patt, Ph. D. Professor of Judaic Studies, University of Hartford

Sponsored by:

Gail and Harold Kirstein and The Kirstein Family Fund for Holocaust Education at the Jewish Community Foundation

FESTIVAL AT A GLANCE

What: 21st Annual Mandell JCC Hartford Jewish Film Festival. Largest cultural event in Connecticut featuring 18 films from 10 countries in 10 days at 5 venues.

When: Thursday, March 16, 2017 through Sunday, March 26, 2017

Who: Presented by the Mandell Jewish Community Center. Special thanks to Festival Funders the Jewish Federation of Greater Hartford, the Jewish Community Foundation of Greater Hartford and the Mandell JCC Pillars Society; Venue Partners Spotlight Theaters Hartford, The Emanuel Synagogue, Cinepolis West Hartford, AMC Independent Bloomfield 8 Theaters; Program Partners the Maurice Greenberg Center for Judaic Studies at the University of Hartford, Trinity College Hillel, Central Connecticut State University, and Media Sponsors the Jewish Ledger, Data Mail Inc., Let's Go Arts Greater Hartford Arts Council and iHeart Media.

Special Events: Opening Night film and lite bite food reception; three Reel Talk post-film events with visiting guest speakers; and Closing Night film followed by dessert reception.

Where: Five Greater Hartford venues: AMC Independent Bloomfield 8 Theaters (Bloomfield), Cinepolis (West Hartford), The Emanuel Synagogue (West Hartford), the Mandell JCC (West Hartford), and Spotlight Theaters (Hartford).

Tickets: \$12 in advance (general admission), \$15 at the door (general admission), \$1 discount for students and Let's Go Arts cardholders. Patron passes available. Credit cards, cash and checks (payable to the Mandell JCC). Purchase by mail, in person, or via phone at Mandell JCC, Zachs Campus, 335 Bloomfield Avenue, West Hartford, CT 06117. Mandell JCC Box Office: 860-231-6316, Main Phone: 860-236-4571. Opening Night is \$50 and includes lite bites food reception. Closing Night is \$25 and includes dessert reception.

Festival Box Office: Phone: 860-231-6316, Fax: 860-233-0802, Email: tickets@mandelljcc.org

Website: www.hjff.org – Official program guide available

SCHEDULE
March 16 - March 26, 2017

Thursday, March 16

Mandell JCC

5:30pm Includes served lite bites

7:30pm Film

ON THE MAP

Saturday, March 18

Mandell JCC

8:00pm Concession stand opens

9:00pm Film

MOOS

Sunday, March 19

Spotlight Theatres, Hartford

1:00pm

SUPERGIRL

Speaker to follow

1:00pm

SHTISEL

4:30pm

FIRE BIRDS

4:30pm

HILL START

7:30pm

SABENA HIJACKING - MY VERSION

7:30pm

AKA NADIA

Monday, March 20

Mandell JCC

6:00pm

THE MAN WHO SAVED THE LOUVRE

8:15pm

BIG SONIA

Tuesday, March 21

Emanuel Synagogue

1:00pm

JERRY LEWIS: The Man Behind the Clown and

The Last Blintz

Refreshments to follow

7:00pm
MY HERO BROTHER
Speakers to follow

Wednesday, March 22
Cinepolis West Hartford, Blue Back Square

7:00pm
THE WOMEN'S BALCONY

Thursday, March 23
Cinepolis West Hartford, Blue Back Square

7:00pm
THE ORIGIN OF VIOLENCE

7:00pm
THE LAST BAND IN LEBANON

Friday, March 24
Mandell JCC

11:00am
SHTISEL
Boxed lunches available for purchase

Saturday, March 25
Mandell JCC

8:00pm Concession stand opens
9:00pm Film
MR. PREDICTABLE

Sunday, March 26
Bloomfield 8 Theaters, Bloomfield

2:00pm
AKA NADIA

2:00pm
SABENA HIJACKING - MY VERSION

4:15pm
HILL START

4:15pm
FIRE BIRDS

Mandell JCC

7:00pm
FANNY'S JOURNEY
Includes dessert reception

PRINT SOURCES

On The Map

www.heyjudeproductions.com

Moos

www.menemshafilms.com

Supergirl

www.supergirl.doc.com

Shtisel

www.go2films.com

Fire Birds

www.israelifilms.com

Hill Start

www.israelifilms.com

Sabena Hijacking- My Version

www.go2films.com

AKA Nadia

www.go2films.com

The Man Who Saved the Louvre

www.widehouse.org

Big Sonia

www.inflatiblefilm.com

Jerry Lewis: The Man Behind the Clown

www.7thart.com

The Last Blintz

www.7thart.com

My Hero Brother

www.heyjudeproductions.com

The Women's Balcony

www.menemshafilms.com

The Last Band in Lebanon

hjff.org/pdfs/PressKit_The_Last_Band_In_Lebanon.pdf

The Origin of Violence

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Mr. Predictable

www.israelifilms.com

Fanny's Journey

www.menemshafilms.com