



Ventura County Jewish Film Festival

20th Annual

March 17- April 30, 2023

Sponsors' Dinner - March 25th

March 1968

Two young students - Hania (Vanessa Aleksander, *Wartime Girls*) and Janek - meet and fall in love in the midst of social turmoil and Jewish discrimination in 1960's Warsaw. While the young lovers are uninterested in politics, they find themselves unable to avoid them when Hania's father and mother lose their jobs due to the antisemitic purge and are forced to emigrate. Hania and Janek do not want to separate but are trapped by expansion of antisemitic persecution that swept through Polish society in the late 1960s.

Genre: Drama. Original Language: Polish; English subtitles

Main Event, In-person Showing Sunday, March 19 2pm - 5pm TBT

Virtual Showing Friday, March 17, 4pm - Sunday, March 19, 4pm

Talkback: Sunday March 19, following film; Dr. Laurence Baron, San Diego State University (in-person with Zoom for remote access)



Farewell Mister Haffmann

Occupied Paris, 1941: all members of the Jewish community are instructed to come forward and identify themselves to authorities. Dedicated jeweler Joseph Haffmann (Daniel Auteuil), fearing the worst, arranges for his family to flee the city and offers his employee François Mercier (Gilles Lellouche) the chance to take over his store until the conflict subsides. But his own attempts to escape are thwarted, and Haffmann is forced to seek his assistant's protection. This film explores in depth the role of bystanders and the moral complexities associated with Nazi occupation.

Genre: Drama. Original Language: French; English subtitles

Main Event, In-person Showing Saturday, March 25 3pm - 7pm TBT
Sponsors' Dinner - By Invitation Only, honoring JFF Sponsors

Virtual Showing Thursday, March 23, 4pm - Saturday, March 25, 4pm

Talkback: Saturday, March 25, following film; Fred Rosenbaum, founder Lehrhaus Judaica (in-person with Zoom for remote access)

Valiant Hearts

Valiant Hearts follows the odyssey of six Jewish children hidden during World War II, who went to find refuge where no one would think to look for them in the Chambord castle and its park, among the hidden works of art of the Louvre. For a valiant heart nothing is impossible.

Genre: Drama. Original Language: French; English subtitles

Main Event, In-person Showing Sunday, April 2 2pm - 5pm TBT

Virtual Showing Friday, March 31, 4pm - Sunday April 2, 4pm

Talkback: Sunday, April 2, following film; Dr. Susanne Hillman, San Diego State University (in-person with Zoom for remote access)



Born in Jerusalem and Still Alive

While walking down Jaffa Road, Jerusalem native Ronen Matalon (Yossi Atia) overhears a tour guide offering a sanitized version of his hometown's recent history. This incident inspires him to begin his own "Terror Tour," taking tourists to famous bombing sites and giving them a droll take on the absurdity of everyday life during the terrorist attacks of the 1990's and 2000's. On one of his tours he meets Asia, an ex-Jerusalemite living in Barcelona, and their relationship challenges him to begin healing from the trauma that envelops his emotional life. This film deftly blends romantic comedy with the complexities of modern life.

Genre: Comedy, Documentary. Original Language: Hebrew; English subtitles

Virtual Showing Friday, April 7, 4pm - Sunday, April 9, 4pm

Online only because of Passover holiday - no talkback

Dead Sea Guardians

The Dead Sea, shared by Israelis, Jordanians and Palestinians is a unique salt lake, known for its exceptional geographical, biological, and historical value. Yet the Dead Sea is drying up due to overconsumption and poor water management. If action is not taken soon, very little of the Dead Sea will remain. To save the Dead Sea, the surrounding countries must work together. Three people – a Jordanian, an Israeli and a Palestinian – feel they cannot just stand by and do nothing. They decide on a heroic act (both political and environmental), an unprecedented, extremely dangerous swim across the Dead Sea, from Jordan to Israel, which will draw the world's attention to the plight of the vanishing Sea.

Genre: Documentary. Original Language: Hebrew; English subtitles

Virtual Showing Friday, April 14, 4pm - Sunday, April 16, 4pm

Online only because of Passover holiday - no talkback



Lost Transport

Moving story of three women thrown together just as WWII is ending in German - Winnie, daughter of a Nazi family; Vera, a Russian sniper; and Simone, a Dutch-Jewish woman who escaped Bergen-Belsen. In Lost Transport, these three natural enemies come to know and trust each other and subtly explore the meaning of friendship.

Genre: Drama. Original Language: German; English subtitles

Main Event, In-person Showing Sunday, April 23 2pm - 4:30pm TBT

Virtual Showing Friday, April 21, 4pm - Sunday, April, 23 4pm

Talkback: Sunday, April 23, following film; Dr. Donald Schwartz, Cal. State University, Long Beach (in-person with Zoom for remote access)

Our Sons

Our Sons (or Everybody's Sons) tells the story of three volunteer soldiers from the Golani Brigade, who were killed next to each other on the first day of the ground entry into Gaza during Operation Eitain 2014: Sean Carmeli, an American Israeli from Texas, Jordan Ben Simon, a French Jew who grew up in anti-Semitic Lyon, and Max Steinberg, a young man from Los Angeles. Sean, Max and Jordan broke into the Israeli national consciousness when they were accompanied on their last journey by tens of thousands of Israelis who heard about their funerals on social media. Their funerals, attended by tens of thousands of Israelis who did not know these fallen soldiers, became a symbol of volunteering, belonging, sacrifice and a testament to the strong ties between the diaspora and Israel.

Genre: Documentary. Original Language: Hebrew; English subtitles

Main Event, In-person Showing Sunday, April 30 1pm - 4:30pm TBT

Brotherhood Lunch (lunch 1pm, film 2pm)
Sponsored by Brotherhood of TBT (admission by JFF ticket)

Virtual Showing Friday, April 28, 4pm - Sunday, April 30, 4pm

Talkback: Sunday, April 30, following film; mother of IDF soldier, Max Steinberg (Woodland Hills, CA) (in-person with Zoom for remote access)



PURCHASE ONLINE OR VIA POSTAL MAIL

Scan QR code below with your cellphone and make your contribution/purchase online via ShulCloud or complete form below and mail in.

FILM FESTIVAL ORDER SUMMARY

Individual Festival Passes (\$85 ea) QTY _____ \$ _____

Individual Film Tickets (\$15 ea)

- March 1968 QTY _____ \$ _____
- Farewell Mr. Haffmann* QTY _____ \$ _____
- Valiant Hearts QTY _____ \$ _____
- Born in Jerusalem* QTY _____ \$ _____
- Dead Sea Guardians* QTY _____ \$ _____
- Lost Transport QTY _____ \$ _____
- Our Sons QTY _____ \$ _____

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Email _____

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Enclosed is my check for \$ _____

Make checks payable to Temple Beth Torah, 7620 Foothill Road, Ventura, CA



* Virtual Only (Farewell Mr. Haffmann In-person by invitation only; Virtual showing tickers available)

If you prefer, you may register by calling the TBT office at 805-647-4181