

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Strom Jewish Community Center Launches 2018/19 Arts+Ideas Season Performing Arts Lineup and New SeaJAM Cultural Festival Kicks Off December 6

SEATTLE, WA (September 28, 2018)—The Strom Jewish Community Center is thrilled to announce its 2018/19 Arts+Ideas season lineup. Now in its fourth season, the Arts+Ideas stage at the J continues to bring world-class musicians, films, chefs, authors, theater, live podcast events, a film and now a new cultural festival to its home on Mercer Island and to venues and audiences around the Puget Sound.

Several high-profile authors and chefs are featured in this year's Words to the Wise talk series, which kicks off with James Beard Award-winning chef and cookbook author **Yotam Ottolenghi**, who returns to the J for a second sold-out event. The celebrated chef will discuss his new book "Ottolenghi Simple" on October 31. Pulitzer-nominated author **Nathan Englander** discusses his new political thriller, "Dinner at the Center of the Earth," on November 17, and *New York Times* Washington bureau deputy editor **Jonathan Weisman** kicks off the second half of the season discussing his new book "(((Semitism)))": Being Jewish in America in the Age of Trump" (January 17) about the rise of the alt-right.

Two local Seattle authors will also speak about their books. In her memoir, "Around Seattle in 80 Dates," **Renata Lubinsky** chronicles her quest for love through online dating (February 10) and **Karen Treiger** explores her in-laws' unlikely meeting in the forest outside the Treblinka Death Camp in "My Soul is Filled with Joy," (April 30).

The J consistently brings eclectic world music to the region with its Global Sound international music series. Trailblazing Sephardic band **Jaffa Road** performs twice on October 21: a full, ticketed concert in the evening; and a short preview performance in the afternoon as part of the second-annual **Sephardic Day @ the J**, a free family event that celebrates our region's unique cultural heritage of Jews of Spanish descent. In the spring, Yemeni and West African dance grooves mix with the deep soul of old Mizrahi chants when the electric performer Ravid Kahalani and **Yemen Blues** take the stage.

This year's theater, live podcast, and comedy shows focus on storytelling. Comedian **Ophira Eisenberg**, host of NPR's "Ask Me Another" and frequent host of "The Moth," brings her hilarious stand-up to the J on January 24, and comedian **Monica Piper**, the Emmy-winning writer known for "Rugrats," "Roseanne," and "Mad About You" delivers stories and stand-up on June 15. **Rain Pryor** takes the stage with her solo show, "Fried Chicken & Latkes," about growing up Back, Jewish, and the daughter of comedy royalty on May 18. Audiences can also enjoy two live podcast shows this season. America's leading and edgy Jewish podcast, "**Unorthodox**" will tape a live Valentine's Day-themed show with surprising special guests, including Seattle's own sex advice columnist **Dan Savage** (who will simultaneously record the episode for



his own radio podcast) on February 2. We are also partnering with University of Washington and Hillel UW to bring **Israel Story**, "Israel's 'This American Life,'" back to Seattle for another magical evening of live radio, music, and multimedia storytelling – this time on the UW campus at the University of Washington's HUB Lyceum Theatre on May 7. The first 50 students (all ages) get in free w/valid ID.

As the SJCC Arts + Ideas season continues to create innovative programming and expand beyond the walls of our 370-seat, state-of-the-art theatre and cinema on Mercer Island, we are launching a brand-new festival in December that will deliver headlining artists along with up-and-comers in a festival format at various locations throughout the region. The first annual **SeaJAM Festival** (December 6-9) is a showcase of emerging and already amazing Jewish arts and music in a variety of disciplines and for different demographics: an opening keynote headliner, two music shows including a family rock concert, dance, comedy, and more. SeaJAM kicks off at Benaroya Hall downtown on December 6. Full lineup announced mid-October.

The 24th annual **Seattle Jewish Film Festival** (March 23-31 and April 6-7), will showcase 36 films from around the world that explore global Jewish and Israeli life, culture, identity, history, and diversity for everyone and all ages. Full lineup and ticket sales announced in February.

This is only a sample of the SJCC's rich and robust 2018/19 Arts+Ideas season. All events are open to the public. See below for a full list of programs. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit www.sjcc.org/arts-ideas or view our [interactive program guide](#) online.

Interviews and images available upon request.

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2018/19 SJCC Arts+Ideas Season

October

Film & Speaker: HIS NEIGHBOR PHIL

Mon, Oct 15 | 4 pm | SJCC | FREE

A film showcasing the effects of Alzheimer's on not only the patient, but the entire family and their community, followed by acclaimed dementia speaker, Lori La Bey. Co-presented with Aegis Living and SYNERGY HomeCare,.

Jaffa Road Concert: Part of Sephardic Day @ the J

Sun, Oct 21 | 6:30pm happy hour | 7:30pm show | SJCC

Acclaimed Toronto-based world music band's trailblazing odyssey of Sephardic Jewish sounds, at once ancient and modern, acoustic and electronic. Featuring songs in Hebrew, Ladino, Arabic, English and more.

Film & Panel: CRIME AFTER CRIME

Thurs, Oct 25 | 7pm | SJCC | FREE



The troubled intersection of domestic violence and the justice system. Co-presented with Jewish Family Service and the Coalition Ending Gender-Based Violence for Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

Film & Panel: "Monkey Business"

Sun, Oct 28 | 2pm | SJCC

A documentary chronicling the extraordinary lives and adventures of the creators of Curious George.

Yotam Ottolenghi: "Ottolenghi Simple" - SOLD OUT

Wed, Oct 31 | 11am VIP | noon talk | SJCC

Celebrated chef Yotam Ottolenghi discusses his new cookbook.

Israeli TV Dinners: YOUR HONOR (KVODO)

Sun, Nov 15 | 3pm | SJCC

Catch the entire heart-pounding first season of Israel's hottest, new TV drama before Showtime's American version is released, served up with Middle Eastern food.

Film & Panel: LIKE

Thurs, Nov 15 | 7 pm | SJCC

New film on impact of social media on our kids and our lives.

A Conversation with Nathan Englander: "Dinner at the Center of the Earth"

Sat, Nov 17 | 7 pm | SJCC

Leading fiction author discusses his new political thriller set in Israel's Negev desert.

"Tarot Diva" Enchanted Cooking Class

Wed, Nov 28 | 7 pm | SJCC

Tarot-card inspired culinary adventures with medium Sasha Graham.

SeaJAM: New Arts + Ideas Festival

Dec 6-9 | various venues

A new festival of emerging and amazing Jewish artists and music. Get your JAM on!

Kung Pao Xmas: Chinese Food and a Movie, DREAMING OF A JEWISH CHRISTMAS

Tues, Dec 25 | 5 pm | SJCC

A Festivus for the rest of us! Chinese food and a movie on Christmas Day.

A Conversation with Jonathan Weisman: "(((Semitism)))": Being Jewish in America in the Age of Trump"

Thurs, Jan 17 | 7:30 pm | SJCC

New York Times editor's latest book on the rise of anti-Semitism and the alt-right.

Comedian Ophira Eisenberg

Thurs, Jan 24 | 8 pm | SJCC

Hilarious stand-up from comic and host of NPR's "Ask Me Another" and "The Moth."

Unorthodox Live: Featuring Dan Savage

Sat, Feb 2 | 8 pm | SJCC

America's leading Jewish podcast tapes a live Valentine's Day episode with sex advice columnist Dan Savage and surprising local guests.



Cook the Book: "Ottolenghi Simple" Desserts

Wed, Feb 6 | 7 pm | SJCC

Make simple, flavorful treats with a pastry chef.

Renata Lubinsky: "Around the World in 80 Dates"

Sun, Feb 10 | 2 pm | SJCC

A Seattle author's quest for love through online dating.

Film: DOUBTFUL

Thurs, Feb 28 | 7:30 pm | SJCC

An emotionally scarred writer sentenced to community service teaches delinquent teens. Winner, Best First Feature at Jerusalem Film Festival.

Yemen Blues Concert with Ravid Kahalani

Sat, March 2 | 8 pm | SJCC

Yemeni and West African dance grooves, from funk to mambo, mix with the deep soul of old Mizrahi chants.

Book Club: Author Kitty Zeldis's "Not Our Kind"

Thurs, March 7 | 7 pm | SJCC

An intimate, author-led discussion of her novel set in postwar New York City.

Sweet & Savory Hamantaschen Cooking Class

Sun, March 10 | 7 pm | SJCC

Put a creative twist on the classic Purim treat.

Seattle Jewish Film Festival (SJFF)

March 23-31 | various venues (AMC Pacific Place, SIFF Uptown, SJCC on Mercer Island)

April 6-7 | Regal Cinebarre Issaquah

The 24th annual festival: 36 films, 180 emotions, thousands of friends.

Featured SJFF Film & Author: Jamie Bernstein

Sun, March 31 | 4 pm | SJCC

New film and memoir by Leonard Bernstein's daughter, celebrating her father's centennial.

Seattle Jewish Film Festival: Eastside

April 6-7 | Regal Cinebarre Issaquah

Taking Issaquah by screen and storm again!

Film & Exhibit: REFUSENIK Documentary - Part of "Power of Protest"

Tues, April 9 | 6:30 pm | Hillel UW

History of local and international efforts to free Soviet Jews. Co-presented with the Washington State Jewish Historical Society and Hillel UW, and part of the "Power of Protest" touring exhibit on view at Hillel UW.

Karen Trieger's "My Soul is Filled with Joy"

Tues, April 30 | 7:30 pm | SJCC

Seattle writer's true, harrowing story of family survival.

Israel Story Live: Multimedia Radio Podcast Show

Tues, May 7 | 7 pm | UW HUB Lyceum Theatre



Israel's "This American Life" returns for another magical evening of live radio, music, and multimedia storytelling. Co-presented with Hillel UW.

SJFF Surprise Encore

Sat, May 11 | 7:30 pm | SJCC

A festival favorite, back by popular demand.

"Fried Chicken and Latkes": A Solo Play by Rain Pryor

Sat, May 18 | 8 pm | SJCC

Hilarious and heart-wrenching show about growing up Black, Jewish, and Richard Pryor's daughter.

Roy Dahan: Israeli Singer-Songwriter

Sun, June 2 | 7:30 pm | SJCC

Seattle debut! Multilayered montage of haunting vocals & eclectic influences from Leonard Cohen to Israeli folk-rock.

Shavuot Cheesecake Cooking Class

Wed, June 5 | 7 pm | SJCC

Create and sample delicious dairy desserts for the holiday.

Comedian Monica Piper: "Farmisht, Farklempt, and Farblungit"

Sat, June 15 | 8 pm | SJCC

Honest and hysterical blend of autobiographical stand-up and storytelling from an Emmy-winning comedy writer.

After Dark Outdoor Movie and Beer Garden: THE PRODUCERS

Sat, Aug 10 | 7:30 pm happy hour | 8:45 pm film | SJCC

Summer cinema on a big blow-up outdoor screen and a beer garden in our beautiful Keshet Community Garden.

All programs subject to change and new programs may be added. Check website for details and pricing: SJCC.org/arts-ideas or view our [interactive program guide](#) online.

All programs take place at the Stroum Jewish Community Center (SJCC), 3801 E. Mercer Way, Mercer Island, WA 98040, unless otherwise specified.

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