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FULL LINEUP ANNOUNCED FOR THE 27TH SEATTLE JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL March 24 – April 10, 2022

Hybrid Festival presents stories from around the world in person and virtually

SEATTLE, Wash. (February 23, 2022) – The **Seattle Jewish Film Festival (SJFF)** has announced its full lineup of films for the 27th Festival, running **March 24 – April 10, 2022**. Tickets and passes for SJFF go on sale Thursday, February 24 at www.SeattleJFF.org.

SJFF features **18 film programs** from around the world, including Portugal, Israel, Switzerland, Belarus, France, Italy, Germany, and more. This year's hybrid festival includes multiple opportunities to safely watch films together in a theatre and connect with special guests in attendance, catered special events and toasts, and culinary delights from local small businesses. Half of the films will screen in person. All (except THE ANCIENT LAW) will also be available to screen virtually, giving audiences opportunities and avenues to engage and reconnect in theaters or with those at home.

In-person screenings take place at AMC Pacific Place, the Stroum Jewish Community Center, and University of Washington. Virtual films are available to screen from Monday, March 28 until Sunday, April 10, with a 48-hour viewing window (72 hours for the two TV series) once the film is started.

"Creating our first hybrid film festival this year was a community-building and –connecting decision to get folks

back in theater seats, back seeing their identities, culture, global connections, and history represented onscreen and encouraging them with special events, guests, and experiences to get back on the scene, back to seeing each other,” says Pamela Lavitt SJCC Arts + Ideas and Festivals Director. “We have programmed this year’s Festival to offer people the best of both worlds: a celebration of global Jewish and Israeli cinema they crave on both the big and small screen while ensuring flexibility and comfort for everyone.”

The hybrid festival kicks off with **two opening nights**: one **virtual and another in-person**. The virtual opening film (available for online viewing from March 24 – 26 *only*) is **FIDDLER’S JOURNEY TO THE BIG SCREEN**. **Narrated by Jeff Goldblum**, the documentary depicts the untold story of filmmaker Norman Jewison’s challenging quest to bring one of America’s most beloved and iconic Jewish stage shows, *Fiddler on the Roof*, to the big screen.

Celebrate SJFF’s first **in-person Opening Night** in three years with **PERSIAN LESSONS**, followed by Persian sweets to go after the screening. From the director of the Academy Award-nominated HOUSE OF SAND AND FOG, this film is a beautiful homage to the many Holocaust survivors who persevered, resisted, and preserved their culture with nothing but wits and resourcefulness to aid them.

The Festival’s beloved Sunday Brunch returns with a screening of former Stroum Jewish Community Center and SJFF staff member Lisa Hurwitz’s highly anticipated documentary, **THE AUTOMAT**. Depicting the rich 100-year history of Horn & Hardart’s Automats, Hurwitz speaks to many luminaries, including **Mel Brooks, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Elliott Gould, Carl Reiner, and Howard Schultz**, who sing the praises of these art deco cafeterias. Enjoy an array of Jewish comfort food in your movie theater seat while listening to the live klezmer sounds of The Klez Katz! before the film and a post-film Q&A with director Lisa Hurwitz. The brunch is hosted by local partners: Mangia Bene Catering and Rubinstein Bagels of Seattle, Batdorf & Bronson Coffee Roasters of Olympia, and Sholom Tea of Tacoma.

The Festival Centerpiece is a co-presentation with Seattle Theatre Group’s Silent Movie Mondays series at The Paramount Theatre. The **digitally restored 1923 silent drama, THE ANCIENT LAW, will be accompanied by an original live score** performed by world-renowned klezmer violinist and composer Alicia Svigals, silent film pianist and composer Donald Sosin, and special guest clarinetist [Laura DeLuca of the Seattle Symphony](#).

Additional films include the cannabis comedy **GREENER PASTURES** (nominated for 12 Israeli Academy Awards) followed by a Zoom conversation on “**Jews and Cannabis: A History from Biblical to *Chai* Times**,” two binge-worthy TV series: the Israeli comedy docuseries, **THE NEW JEW** hosted by renowned Israeli comedian Guri Alfi and Switzerland’s **LABYRINTH OF PEACE**; the LGBTQIA+ Spotlight film **THE SWIMMER**, and a short film program “When We See Ourselves,” curated by Warren Etheredge.

Close out the film festival with a rosé toast for the in-person screening of the award-winning film **ROSE**, starring legendary French actress Françoise Fabian as a recent widow whose sorrow gives way to a deep thirst for life.

Tickets and passes for SJFF go on sale Thursday, February 24. Single film ticket prices range from \$10-25. Ticket packs range from \$75-100, and Full Festival All-Access passes are \$180 and include all in-person and

virtual screenings. Add on virtual access to any in-person ticket for \$5. Discounts are available for seniors 65+, students, youth under 13, and Teen Tix members.

- Full festival schedule and online ticket sales at www.SeattleJFF.org
- [In-person FAQs](#) & [Virtual FAQs](#)
- **Film stills, films press kit information, and festival logos** can be found [here](#)
- For press credentials, to preview any films, or arrange interviews with festival staff and guests, please contact Rachael Brister at rachael@rcbcommunications.net

Full Festival Lineup (alphabetical order)

For a list of all programs and special events, visit www.SeattleJFF.org

1618 (A luz de Judá)

Luis Ismael | Period Drama | Portugal, 2021 | Portuguese w/subtitles | 85m

Based on a true story, as the Inquisition continues the persecution of Portuguese Jews, with his family and community in danger, António Álvares outlines an escape plan.

8000 PAPERCLIPS

Nitsan Tal | Documentary | USA, 2019 | Hebrew, English w/English subtitles | 73m

An Israeli artist and TED fellow travels to Uganda to make art with Hebrew-speaking South Sudanese children raised in Israel and deported to Africa. When resources are limited—what is the real value of art?

Centerpiece Screening: THE ANCIENT LAW (Das alte gesetz)

E.A. Dupont | Digitally Restored Silent Drama | Germany, 1923 | German w/English subtitles | 128m

The son of an Orthodox rabbi from a poor shtetl breaks with tradition to become an actor in this digitally restored silent film with an **original score performed live**. In partnership with Seattle Theatre Group.

APPLES AND ORANGES

Yoav Brill | Documentary | Israel, 2021 | Hebrew, English w/English subtitles | 80m

In the 1960s, volunteering on a kibbutz became all the rage as young counterculture idealists flocked to Israel to work on its storied agricultural collectives and participate in its great experiment of communal living. This absorbing documentary explores their vast impact and its dark underside.

Sunday Brunch + Film: THE AUTOMAT

Lisa Hurwitz | Documentary | USA, 2021 | English | 79m

Mel Brooks, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Colin Powell, and Howard Schultz are among the diners singing the praises of Horn & Hardart's Automats, art deco cafeterias whose rich 100-year history is gloriously celebrated.

THE CONDUCTOR

Bernadette Wegenstein | Documentary | USA, 2021 | English | 90m

Despite rejections from the classical music establishment, Marin Alsop—inspired by her lifelong hero Leonard Bernstein—smashed the glass ceiling and became the world's first female conductor.

(Virtual) Opening Night Film: FIDDLER'S JOURNEY TO THE BIG SCREEN

Daniel Raim | Documentary | USA, 2022 | English | 88m

The unusual and untold story of Norman Jewison's quest to bring Fiddler on the Roof to the big screen. Jeff Goldblum narrates this behind-the-scenes examination of "the most powerful movie musical ever made."

FORGIVENESS

Guy Amir, Hanan Savyon | Comedy | Israel, 2019 | Hebrew w/English subtitles | 104m

A robbery gone wrong sends two men down drastically different paths in this poignant, zany mix of comedy, caper, and compassion.

GREENER PASTURES

Assaf Abiri, Matan Guggenheim | Comedy | Israel, 2021 | Hebrew, English w/English subtitles | 90m

Dov, a cranky widower, realizes that weed could be his salvation—selling it, not smoking it. Nominated for 12 Israeli Academy Awards, this “high” spirited, charming cannabis comedy is perfect for “green” Seattle.

Israeli Cinema Spotlight: IMAGE OF VICTORY

Avi Neshet | Drama | Israel, 2021 | Hebrew, Arabic w/English subtitles | 128m

Set against the backdrop of the 1948 War of Independence, an Egyptian documentary filmmaker dreams of capturing the perfect image of victory over an Israeli kibbutz, where idealistic youth on both sides are caught in the crosshairs in this epic Israeli Academy Award-nominee for Best Picture.

Jewish-TV Binge Series: LABYRINTH OF PEACE (Frieden)

Mike Schaerer | TV Drama Mini-Series | Switzerland, 2020 | Swiss German w/English subtitles | 6 episodes, 50m each

A binge-worthy epic saga of a textile industrialist’s family dynasty, this blockbuster period drama is filled with slow-boil intrigue and uncomfortable truths that challenge the myth of Switzerland’s neutrality during WWII.

NEIGHBOURS (Nachbarn)

Mano Khalil | Drama | Switzerland, 2021 | Kurdish, Hebrew, Arabic, Turkish w/English subtitles | 124m

When tragedy strikes, the last Jewish family living in a Kurdish village on the Syrian/Turkish border in the early 1980s must turn to their neighbors, six-year-old Sero’s Kurdish family for help.

Israeli-TV Binge Series: THE NEW JEW

Daniel Adar | TV Comedy Docuseries | Israel, 2020 | English, Hebrew w/English subtitles | 4 episodes, 45m each

Ever wonder how Israelis perceive American Jews? This four-part series, hosted by Israeli funnyman Guri Alfi, explores the entertaining differences and divides between the two epicenters of world Jewry, raising the ultimate question: are we still one people?

(In-Person) Opening Night Film: PERSIAN LESSONS (Persischstunden)

Vadim Perelman | Drama | Belarus, Germany, Russia, 2020 | French, German w/English subtitles | 127m

A Belgian Jewish prisoner narrowly escapes execution at a WWII Nazi internment camp by pretending to be Persian, but his lie begins to unravel when an SS officer demands to be taught the Persian language. From the director of the Academy Award-nominated HOUSE OF SAND AND FOG.

Closing Night Film + Rosé Toast: ROSE

Aurélié Saada | Drama | France, 2021 | French, Yiddish w/English subtitles | 102m

After 50 years of marriage, Rose (legendary French actress Françoise Fabian) must reject societal pressures to “act her age” and reignite her joie-de-vivre in this warm-hearted Jewish family drama.

A STARRY SKY ABOVE THE ROMAN GHETTO (Un cielo stellato sopra il ghetto di Roma)

Giulio Base | Drama | Italy, 2021 | Italian w/English subtitles | 100m

The discovery of a puzzling wartime photograph sparks students to probe the history of Rome’s Jewish ghetto

through the fate of a little girl during a Gestapo raid. Interlacing past and present, they must take a stand.

Gay Gezunt! LGBTQIA+ Spotlight: THE SWIMMER

Adam Kalderon | Drama | Israel, 2021 | Hebrew w/English subtitles | 90m

Erez, a rising swimming star aiming for a ticket to the Olympics, arrives at a godforsaken training camp where the beautiful and talented Nevo awakens his subconscious desires.

SHORTS PROGRAM: “WHEN WE SEE OURSELVES”

Curated by Warren Etheridge, this shorts program examines how we, as Jews, perceive our individual character and how we struggle mightily to alter others’ perceptions of us.

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About the Seattle Jewish Film Festival

Seattle Jewish Film Festival (SJFF) is one of the largest and longest-running film festivals in the Pacific Northwest and one of the largest Jewish film festivals in the country. A cornerstone program of the Stroum Jewish Community Center (SJCC) and its Arts + Ideas program, SJFF brings people together from across Washington State—and virtually around the globe—to celebrate and showcase the vibrancy and diversity of Jewish and Israeli life through cinema. Year-round, SJFF and SJCC Arts + Ideas present film and performing arts programs that build connections, unlock perspectives, engage the community, and uplift the human spirit. Tickets and more information at www.SeattleJFF.org. Follow the Seattle Jewish Film Festival on Facebook and Twitter @[SeattleJFF](https://twitter.com/SeattleJFF), and Instagram @[sjcc.arts](https://www.instagram.com/sjcc.arts).