



Press Book
14th Annual Hartford Jewish Film Festival
March 13 - 23, 2010

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

With
Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art
Maurice Greenberg Center for Judaic Studies
and
The Hartt School
University of Hartford

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Official Film Festival Site: www.hjff.org

**Mandell JCC Presents *Hartford Jewish Film Festival* March 13-23, 2010;
14th Annual Arts Fest Features 30 Movies, Children's Opera, Silent Film & Concert**

(West Hartford, CT, December 20, 2009) Thirty films of comedy, romance, family, action, history, and sports will share the spotlight with live music and a children's opera when the **14th Annual Mandell JCC Hartford Jewish Film Festival** raises the curtain at seven Greater Hartford theaters March 13 - 23, 2010, announced Mark Slitt and Ruthan Wein, Festival co-chairs.

Connecticut's largest showcase of Jewish and Israeli films is presented by the **Mandell Jewish Community Center** with the **Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art** and new partners, the **Maurice Greenberg Center for Judaic Studies** and **The Hartt School, University of Hartford**. New this year are *Family Flicks*, with an animated folk tale paired with a live children's opera, "Reel Talk" post-film panels and *Senior Screen*. On closing night March 23, 70 musicians from **The Hartt School** will bring back the almost-lost art of the silent film era when they perform an original student-composed score accompanying a vintage Jewish silent film. The blossoming of Israel's cinema industry is highlighted in ten Israeli entries spanning dramas and feel-good features, daring documentaries, and experimental short films. Almost all of the films, which hail from Argentina, Canada, France, Israel, Germany, Spain, United Kingdom and the United States, are Hartford or Connecticut premieres.

"Butter the popcorn and be prepared to chuckle, sniffle, applaud, howl, gasp, and be dazzled this March", said Harriet J. Dobin, festival Director. "The Mandell JCC's Hartford Jewish Film Festival and our partners are widening the lens in 2010, with thirty brilliant films, seventy musicians, a live children's opera, new events for families and seniors, guest film directors and subjects, parties and post-film panels. Welcome to movie heaven for New England film-lovers!"

West Hartford's Wilde Auditorium at the University of Hartford and Hebrew Health Care join five venues including the Aetna Theater at the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art, (Hartford); Beth El Temple, Criterion Cinema at Blue Back Square and the Mandell JCC, (West Hartford) and K & G Theaters, Bloomfield 8, (Bloomfield). "***Tribute: Observations on Survival and Spirit - Lessons from the Holocaust***", sponsored by the Kirstein Family Fund for Holocaust Education at the Jewish Community Foundation of Greater Hartford, returns for a second season with eight original dramatic short films.

STARS, SPIES, SPORTS AND SAVIORS

Opening Night Saturday, March 13, 2010 at the Aetna Theater, Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art features the Hartford premiere of ***Hello Goodbye***, reuniting French stars Fanny Ardant and Gerard Depardieu, who are hilariously lost and found in the Promised Land. Journey into deafness and the silent world of a remote Bedouin tribe in ***Voices from El Sayed*** and travel back in time with ***Hungry Hearts***, a 1922 silent Jewish classic. ***Close Harmony*** and ***From Shtetl To Swing*** present a rich musical treat. Cheer on Jewish hoopsters in ***The First Basket*** and Israeli Sumo wrestlers in ***A Matter of Size***. Strap in for a thrill ride with Nazi-hunting Israeli spies in ***The Debt***. Families and children will enjoy ***Something From Nothing***, an animated Jewish folk tale followed by a live English/Yiddish children's opera based on this PJ Library book favorite.

Witness World War II heroism in ***Pride, Honor & Courage: Jewish Women Remember World War II***, profiling more than a dozen Hartford women who served their country. ***Refusenik*** recalls the courageous Soviet Jews and historic moments behind the headlines of our generation's greatest liberation movement. Meet the Hartford granddaughters and see the amazing true story of a Polish Catholic woman who hid 16 Jewish neighbors from the Nazis in ***No. 4 Street of Our Lady***. ***Saviors in the Night*** reveals the unknown selflessness of German farmers who risked it all to save their Jewish friends.

South American Jewish life shapes two Argentinean entries, ***Letters for Jenny*** and ***La Camera Obscura***, spanning the centuries with touching love stories and poignant family dramas. A

ballroom dance class in ***Love and Dance*** and the political scandal of ***Eli and Ben*** help two Israeli teens come of age. The politics and problems of Israel and her neighbors are interpreted in two powerful, award-winning films, ***Lemon Tree*** and ***For My Father***. A modern-day Jerusalem heroine finds her biblical namesake's temptations shockingly real in ***Bruriah***.

Blond, blue-eyed baby Leah, a rookie war correspondent and a troubled violinist are some of the characters introduced in the eight original dramatic short Holocaust films featured at ***Tribute - Observations on Survival and Spirit - Lessons from the Holocaust***.

TICKETS AND INFORMATION

Individual tickets to most films are \$10 general admission. Tickets for Saturday, March 13, 2010 Opening Night gala reception and film are \$50 per person. The Monday, March 15 screening of ***Love and Dance*** is free for students. Free tickets for *Senior Screen* Wednesday March 17 are available by advance reservation. Tickets for the Tuesday, March 23, 2010 ***Hungry Hearts*** Film and Closing Night Concert featuring 70 musicians from The Hartt School, University of Hartford are \$25 per person including a dessert reception. Patron passes are on sale at the Box Office. \$1 discount is offered for students, Wadsworth Atheneum Film Buffs 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 to avoid wait-listing. 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 Ave., West Hartford, CT. 06117, 860-231-6316, visit the official film festival website, www.hjff.org or contact Member Services Center, 860-236-4571.

Sneak Previews

14th Annual Mandell JCC Hartford Jewish Film Festival - March 13-23, 2010
Presented by Mandell JCC with Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art, Maurice Greenberg Center for Judaic Studies and The Hartt School, University of Hartford

Opening Night**Saturday, March 13, 2010****Aetna Theater, Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art, Hartford****8:00 PM *Gefilte Fish***

Israel, 2008, 10 minutes, Hebrew with English subtitles

Director: Shelly Kling-Yosef

This adorable short finds a charming Jewish bride torn between her family's pre-nuptial tradition of killing and cooking gefilte fish versus her growing sympathy for the live carp splashing around in her bathtub. Will she show mercy or go through with the traditional pre-wedding feast? This universally-appealing fish story bubbles with humor, romance and fun.

Hello Goodbye

France, 2008, 95 minutes, French and Hebrew with English subtitles

Director: Graham Guit

Immediately following *Gefilte Fish*

Legendary French actors Gérard Depardieu (*Cyrano de Bergerac*) and Fanny Ardant (*The Secrets*) reunite in this romantic comedy about the misadventures of a Jewish Parisian couple. Alain is a successful gynecologist, and Gisèle, who converted when they married, is charming and beautiful. They enjoy a comfortable life—until their only son announces plans to marry a Catholic girl. Facing an empty nest and midlife crisis, they leave their posh home in Paris and travel to Israel in search of their neglected Jewish roots. In opting for a fresh start in the Land of Milk and Honey, some of their plans turn sour, and their relationship is soon put to the test.

Sunday, March 14, 2010**Mandell JCC, West Hartford, CT****3:00 PM *Something From Nothing******Film and Live Children's Opera***

USA, 1999, 23 minutes, English, Animated film based on the book by Phoebe Gilman

This animated tale is based on the popular PJ Library selection, *Something From Nothing* and tells the story of a young boy, his grandfather, a magic blanket, and a lucky mouse. The time-honored tale celebrates Jewish culture and tradition.

Some-thing from No-thing**An Opera for Children Immediately following film**

This new children's opera is based upon the beloved Yiddish folk tale *Epes fun Gornisht*. A child receives a blanket at birth that is transformed throughout his life into a coat, vest, scarf, hat and finally a button. It is recycled until it finally exists only in his memory. The live children's opera features re-orchestrations of popular Yiddish melodies by Dr. Jody Rockmaker, a composer at Arizona State University School of Music. Humorous original English dialogue by playwright Amy Fellner Dominy and the performances of four actor/singers from Arizona State University will delight children and adults alike. The film and children's opera is presented by the Mandell JCC and the Maurice Greenberg Center for Judaic Studies.

Sunday, March 14, 2010
K & G Theatres, Bloomfield 8, Bloomfield

12 Noon Voices From El Sayed

Israel, 2009, 75 minutes, Hebrew, Arabic, Sign language with English subtitles
 Director: Oded Adomi Leshem

In the picturesque Israeli Negev desert lays the Bedouin village of El-Sayed. It has the largest percentage of deaf people in the world. Still, no hearing aids can be seen because in El-Sayed deafness is not a handicap. Through the generations a unique sign language has evolved making it the most popular language in this rare society that accepts deafness as natural as life itself. The village's tranquility is interrupted by Salim's decision to change his deaf son's fate and make him a hearing person using the Cochlear Implant Operation provided by Israeli doctors.

*Emerging Artist Award, Full Frame Documentary Film Festival

3:00 PM Refusenik

USA, 2007, 120 minutes, English, Hebrew and Russian with English subtitles
 Director: Laura Bialis

This riveting documentary chronicles the 30-year international campaign to free Soviet Jews. Told through the eyes of activists on both sides of the Iron Curtain, *Refusenik* is a tapestry of first-person accounts of heroism, sacrifice and liberation. The Free Soviet Jewry movement led to over one million Russian Jews leaving the Soviet Union, changing the course of Jewish history forever. Exclusive interviews, clandestine photographs, and archival footage help tell this inspiring true story of freedom-seeking ordinary people who cracked the wall of Soviet Communism.

5:00 PM Bruriah

Israel, 2008, 90 Minutes, Hebrew with English subtitles
 Director: Avraham Kushnir

Bruriah, the outspoken controversial wife of Rabbi Meir from the second century CE, finds her 20th century namesake and counterpart in the modern-day heroine of Avraham Kushnir's debut feature film. Against her husband's wishes, the strong-willed contemporary Bruriah (Hadar Galron) searches for a banned book written about the legendary woman by her father. The ancient Bruriah met her downfall when seduced by a student, prompting generations of rabbis to teach that "women are light-headed." Will history repeat? This dramatic multi-dimensional film is also about the war between the sexes, marital affairs and Orthodox women's rights. *Bruriah* will leave viewers of both sexes with something to think and argue about.

9:15 PM Lemon Tree

Israel, Germany, France, 2008, 106 minutes, Hebrew and Arabic with English subtitles
 Director: Eran Riklis

Salma, a Palestinian widow finds her family's beloved lemon grove threatened when the country's new Defense Minister moves next door and deems the trees a security risk that must be torn down. Forced to take her seemingly hopeless case to the Israeli Supreme Court, she finds an unlikely ally in the stubborn politician's wife and a young Palestinian lawyer. This award-winning film turns a minor backyard skirmish into an affective parable of a politicized region.

*Best Actress, Israeli Film Academy

*Nominated for seven Israeli Academy Awards

*Audience Award, 2008, Berlin International Film Festival

*Lemon Tree will also be screened on Wednesday, March 17, 9:00 p.m. at Criterion Cinema, Blue Back Square, West Hartford.

Monday, March 15, 2010
Beth El Temple, West Hartford

7:00 PM *Love and Dance*

Israel, 2006, 90 minutes, Hebrew and Russian with English subtitles
 Director: Eitan Anner

Israel's answer to *Billy Elliot*, this irresistible multi-layered coming-of-age film finds young Chen caught in the clashing crossroads between his lively Russian-born mother and opinionated Israeli father. While strolling the halls of his neighborhood community center in Ashdod, Chen stumbles upon a children's ballroom dance class and is smitten by Natalie, a beautiful young Russian girl. Infatuation leads him to take lessons in the hope of winning the final competition. With a little help from the Cha Cha and the Tango, Chen bridges the culture gap of his fractured family.

Invited Performers: Dance Students, Fred Astaire Studio, West Hartford

Tuesday, March 16, 2010
Herbert Gilman Theater, Mandell JCC, West Hartford

7:00 PM *No. 4 Street of our Lady*

USA, 2008, 90 minutes, English, Hebrew and Polish with English subtitles
 Directors: Barbara Bird, Judy Maltz and Richie Sherman, Pennsylvania State University

"Reel Talk" Immediately following film

Invited Speakers: **Barbara Bird, Judy Maltz, Richie Sherman**, film directors Grace Kuzcharzyk, Rocky Hill CT and Jolanta Staron, Wethersfield CT, granddaughters of Francisca Halamajowa

Guest Moderator: From Hartford Courant/FOX CT/WTXX

This is the remarkable, yet little-known, story of Righteous Gentile Francisca Halamajowa, a Polish-Catholic woman who rescued 16 of her Jewish neighbors in the small Eastern Polish town of Sokal during the Holocaust, while cleverly passing herself off as a Nazi sympathizer. Francisca's two granddaughters, Grace Kucharzyk and Jolanta Staron live in Greater Hartford and play a prominent role in this award-winning film. This stunning film draws on excerpts from a diary kept by one of the survivors, Moshe Maltz, whose granddaughter is one of the filmmakers. It also incorporates remarkable testimonies from other Jews she saved, her descendants and former neighbors, as they reconnect on a beautifully filmed trip back to Sokal.

*Grand Prize, Best Feature Documentary, Rhode Island International Film Festival, 2009

*CINE Golden Eagle Award, 2009

*Silver Palm Award, Mexico International Film Festival, 2009

Wednesday, March 17, 2010
Hebrew Health Care, West Hartford

4:30 PM *Close Harmony*

USA, 1981, 28 minutes, English
 Director: Nigel Noble

Free for seniors by advance reservation only; limited seating.

A group of fourth and fifth graders form an intergenerational chorus with a group of older adults. Brought together by a dynamic music teacher, Arlene Symons, and motivated by their abilities, interest, and enthusiasm for music, these children and their older counterparts break down the stereotypical image of aging in this delightfully warm documentary.

*Best Short Documentary, Academy Awards, 1981

*EMMY Award, 1982

From Shtetl To Swing

USA, 2005, 52 minutes, English and Yiddish with English subtitles
 Director: Fabienne Rousso-Lenoir

Immediately following ***Close Harmony***

Between 1880 and 1924, 2.5 million Jews fled persecution in Russia and Eastern Europe, kissed the shtetl goodbye and migrated to America. Turning a fresh, playful eye to the cultural attitudes and musical styles that proliferated throughout this extraordinarily rich period, from Yiddish theater to musical extravaganza, from klezmer to ragtime, from symphonic jazz to swing - all the way from the Bowery to Tin Pan Alley to Broadway to Hollywood - *From Shtetl to Swing* tells the story of a musical metamorphosis born in darkest Russia only to blaze across the Great White Way.

Wednesday, March 17, 2010

Criterion Cinema, Blue Back Square, West Hartford Center

7:00 PM *For My Father*

Israel, 2008, 102 minutes, Hebrew and Arabic with English subtitles
 Director: Dror Zahavi

"Reel Talk" Immediately following film

Invited Speakers:

Dr. Donna Robinson Divine, *Morningstar Family Professor of Jewish Studies and Professor of Government, Smith College, Amherst, MA*

Dr. Moises Salinas, *Chief Diversity Officer and Associate Professor, Department of Psychology, Central Connecticut State University, New Britain, CT*

Guest Moderator: From Hartford Courant/FOX CT/WTXX

Tarek, a young Palestinian sent on a suicide bombing mission inside Israel to redeem his family's honor, is given a second chance when the switch fails to detonate on his explosive vest. Stranded in Tel Aviv for 48 hours awaiting its repair, Tarek develops deep and profound connections with three Israelis whose lives intersect with his. Among them is beautiful Keren, who has cut off contact with her Orthodox family. An unlikely love between born enemies blooms by weekend's end, when Tarek must make the decision of his life.

- * Winner, Moscow International Film Festival 2008
- * Best Film, Sofia Film Festival, Bulgaria, 2009
- * Winner, Audience Award, Cinequest Film Festival
- * Grand Prix Award, Best Feature Film
- * Nominated for seven Israeli Academy Awards

9:15 PM *Lemon Tree*

Encore Presentation

Germany, France, Israel, 2008, 106 minutes, Hebrew and Arabic with English subtitles
 Director: Eran Riklis

Salma, a Palestinian widow finds her family's beloved lemon grove threatened when the country's new Defense Minister moves next door and deems the trees a security risk that must be torn down. Forced to take her seemingly hopeless case to the Israeli Supreme Court, she finds an unlikely ally in the stubborn politician's wife and a young Palestinian lawyer. This award-winning film turns a minor backyard skirmish into an affective parable of a politicized region.

- *Best Actress, Israeli Film Academy
- *Nominated for seven Israeli Academy Awards
- *Audience Award, 2008, Berlin International Film Festival

Thursday, March 18, 2010
Criterion Cinema, Blue Back Square, West Hartford Center

7:00 PM *La Camera Obscura*

Argentina and France, 2008, 86 minutes. Spanish and Yiddish with English subtitles
 Director: Maria Victoria Menis

This luminous feature is set in an agrarian Jewish colony in the late 1800s in scenic Entre Rios Province, Argentina. Marked as “ugly” and made virtually invisible by her family, Gertrudis retreats into her inner world. Finally married off to a wealthy but indifferent husband, she raises a family, shielding her face from group photos. It takes one soulful itinerant photographer to recognize her rich imagination and unleash the beautiful woman inside. Sumptuously photographed with artistic imagery, this is an innovative love story which captures a rarely seen period in South American Jewish life.

*Nominated for 8 Argentinean Film Critics Association Awards
 *Grand Prize, Pays de Caux International Latin Film Festival, 2009

9:15 PM *The Debt*

Israel, 2007, 93 minutes, Hebrew and German with English subtitles
 Director: Assaf Bernstein

Israeli diva Gila Almagor heads a stellar international cast in this ticking-clock espionage thriller as Rachel, a former Mossad agent-turned-war hero. She was part of a trio of spies hailed for hunting down and killing Max Rainer, the Nazi Surgeon of Birkenau in 1964. Rachel is drawn back to her past when a man claiming to be the *real* Rainer surfaces in Kiev three decades later. The tense action flashes between the 1960s and the present as their tangled web of lies unravels, threatening to expose the truth.

*Nominated for 4 Israeli Academy Awards

Saturday, March 20, 2010
Aetna Theater, Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art, Hartford

8:30 PM *Meeskeit*

USA, 2009, 7 Minutes, English
 Director: Neil Ira Needleman; Illustrations: Herb Rogoff

This is the poignant animated short story of two ugly people (“meeskeits,” in Yiddish) and the beautiful relationship they never had.

A Matter of Size

Israel, 2009, 92 minutes, Hebrew and Japanese with English subtitles
 Directors: Sharon Maymon and Erez Tadmor.

Immediately following ***Meeskeit***

Herzl, a 340-pound chef who lives with his mother, is fed up with rigid diet regimes and abusive weight loss clubs. Just as he and his seriously overweight buddies in the working-class town of Ramle seem beaten down, Herzl meets Kitano, a Sushi restaurant owner, and discovers the one place where big guys can become rock stars: Japanese sumo wrestling. This endearing and poignant comedy traces their tender and funny paths from body shame to body celebration, and from loneliness to love. Rich in belly laughs, *A Matter of Size* tops the scales with its plus-size heart.

*Winner, four 2009 Ophir Awards, Israeli Film and Television Academy

Sunday, March 21, 2010
K & G Theatres, Bloomfield 8, Bloomfield

12 Noon *The First Basket*

USA, 86 minutes, English
 Director: David Vyorst

This jaunty documentary about Hebrew hoopsters is a valuable reminder that before LeBron and Kobe, there was Inky, Hank and Ossie! For nearly three decades, basketball was dominated by Jewish players - and coaches who found the sport an ideal vehicle for assimilation in the United States. *The First Basket* rounds up many Jewish veterans some now deceased, to tell stories of a sporting tradition that continues in Israel today. Full of vivid anecdotes and distinctive characters, this film is slam-dunk March madness entertainment for the whole family.

Pride, Honor & Courage: Jewish Women Remember World War II

USA, 2009, 35 minutes, English
 Director: Alexis Bravos

Immediately following ***The First Basket***

Greater Hartford Jewish women who served in the military and on the home front during World War II tell their stories of friendship, adventure and sacrifice and opportunity. Blending narrative, original photos, memorabilia, historical news footage and music, this important documentary captures the voices and memories of women of the Greatest Generation.

3:00 PM *Eli and Ben*

Israel, 2008, 90 minutes, Hebrew with English titles
 Director: Ori Ravid

In Ori Ravid's debut feature coming-of-age film, heartthrob Lior Ashkenazi (*Walk on Water*) plays father and husband Ben, the city architect of the Tel Aviv suburb, Herzliya. Ben's father, also an architect, is about to win the Israel Prize. Ben's son, Eli, is 12. Watching the police take his father into custody changes everything for Eli. When the police question him about his father's actions, Eli begins to feel like a double agent.

5:00 PM *Letters For Jenny*

Argentina, Israel, Spain, 2007, 96 minutes, Spanish & Hebrew with English subtitles
 Director: Diego Musiak

This unapologetically sentimental rite-of-passage film will surely elicit tears and tender emotion. Having lost her mother to a terminal illness, Jenny enters her teenage years after a bittersweet Bat Mitzvah. Despite a caring and devoted father, a series of letters from her late mother are Jenny's only comfort in times of crisis and confusion. Traveling from South America to Israel, Jenny reconnects with her Jewish identity and a handsome childhood friend now serving in the Israel Defense Forces. A feisty lead performance from Argentine actress Gimena Accardi fuels this picturesque tale that tugs deeply at the ties that bind in surprising new ways. Appropriate for ages 13+

7:00 PM *Saviors in the Night*

Germany and France, 2009, 100 minutes, German and French with English subtitles
 Director: Ludi Boeken

Adapted from Marge Spiegel's stirring memoir, this is the riveting true story of courageous Westphalian German farmers who risked their own lives and sheltered Jewish friends from the Nazis. Genial Jewish horse trader Menne Spiegel won an Iron Cross fighting for Germany in World War I but now he and his family are marked for murder. Desperate, he turns to neighbor Heinrich Aschoff who immediately offers to take in Menne's wife Marga and their young daughter. Hiding for two years and running from nosy SS officers, over-enthusiastic Hitler Youth and frightened citizens, the Spiegels struggle to get by. At film's end, the appearance of characters whose real life stories are told adds depth to a fine production filled with emotional power and a constant sense of dread.

Monday, March 22, 2010
Wilde Auditorium, Harry Jack Gray Center, University of Hartford

TRIBUTE: Observations on Survival and Spirit - Lessons from the Holocaust

7:00 p.m. Screening of 8 short films followed by *Reel Talk*, led by Professor Avinoam Patt of the Maurice Greenberg Center for Judaic Studies, University of Hartford. Reception follows screenings. Sponsored by the Kirstein Family Fund for Holocaust Education, Jewish Community Foundation of Greater Hartford.

Holding Leah

Germany and USA, 2005, 7 minutes, English
 Director: Myriam Halberstam

Leah is a beautiful baby with bright blue eyes - eyes that might have permitted her to survive Hitler's Third Reich because they might have seemed so "Aryan."

Pigeon

Canada, 2007, 11 minutes, German with English subtitles
 Director: Anthony Green

Set during World War II and based on a true story, *Pigeon* recounts a rare and startling act of charity. Sumptuously shot and emotionally affecting, this film stars Academy Award nominee Michael Lerner and Wendy Crewson.

*Special Jury Award, Houston World Fest

Sarah and Hayah

Israel, 2008, Animated short, 2 minutes, English
 Director: Adi Targownik

Inspired by his 85 year old grandmother, Hayah Zisel, filmmaker Adi Targownik's 3D animated short tells the story of two girls - Hayah and her sister Sarah - on a train bound for their deaths in 1944. But only one of them is really there. His unusual computer cartoon-shading technique creates a distinct tribute "in memory of those who were killed."

The Next Harvest

USA, 2009, 12 minutes, English
 A work in progress
 Director: Glenn Orkin

In the Fall of 2008, a Jew from Gloucester, Massachusetts bought a house in picturesque Oppenheim, Germany. He became the first Jew to live in that city since the director's mother, Marianne Orkin of Waterbury, CT, fled the Nazis with her brother and parents in 1941. *The Next Harvest*, filmed on location in this small city on the Rhine will link viewers to the past through the story of the director's grandfather, Carl Newman, once a respected Oppenheim vintner and last head of its thriving Jewish community.

The Wall

USA, 2008, 7 minutes Director: Michael Loyd Green

"The Wall" is a glimpse into the life of Bernard, a New York City cellist who, after years of struggling against unbearable guilt, finds little solace in the world, save for his music. As Bernard's fate hangs in the balance a woman moves next door who shares not only his passion for music but is herself no stranger to tragedy.

*Best Use of Music: Academy of Television Arts and Sciences College Award, 2008

*Best Graduate Student Film: Rhode Island Film Festival, 2008

Torte Bluma

USA 2005, 18 minutes, English

Director: Benjamin Ross

Real-life Franz Stangl, the Commandant of the Treblinka extermination camp from 1942 to 1943, enjoyed a most unusual relationship with the Jewish slave who cooked his meals. Teetering on the brink of insanity, their daily rituals were held together by a tenuous thread—until the cargo train brought a surprising arrival.

- *Best Drama, Los Angeles International Short Film Festival
- *Best Film, Palm Springs International Festival of Short Films
- *Official Selection, Edinburgh International Film Festival

Contains mature thematic Holocaust material with graphic images, recommended for high school age and above.

Toyland

Germany, 13 minutes, German with English subtitles

Director: Jochen Alexander Freydank

1942: What happens when a German child believes that his Jewish neighbors are going to Toyland? A story about lies and guilt.

- *Best Live Action Short, Academy Awards 2008

Writing Dachau

United Kingdom, 2008, 7 minutes, English

Director: Genevieve Simms

In 1945, the Dachau concentration camp was liberated by American troops. Among them was a young American journalist, Marguerite Higgins, on the biggest war reporting job of her career up to that point. Beyond the objective history recording, there was always a human being behind the pen and the camera lens who personally experienced the discovery of such atrocities.

- *Audience Award, The Imperial War Museum's Student Film Festival, 2006
- *Los Angeles Holocaust Memorial Museum Award, 2009

Contains mature thematic Holocaust materials with graphic images, recommended for high school age and above.

Tuesday, March 23, 2010

Herbert Gilman Theater, Mandell JCC, West Hartford

7:00 PM Hungry Hearts

USA, 1922, 80 minutes, Silent with English Intertitles

Director: E. Mason Hopper

Restored by the National Center for Jewish Film, Brandeis University
Featuring original score composed and performed live by student musicians from
The Hartt School, University of Hartford

Closing Reception, Chase Family Gallery following film and concert

This classic Jewish silent film is a Hollywood adaptation of the short stories of Anzia Yeziarska, the first writer to bring stories of American Jewish women to a mainstream audience. *Hungry Hearts* focuses on the hopes and hardships of the Levin family. Filmed on New York's Lower East Side, it is the bittersweet tale of Jewish immigrants from Eastern Europe making their way in the New World. The screening will feature an original score composed and performed live accompanying the movie by seventy musicians from The Ensemble, The Hartt School Symphony Band, University of Hartford. The performance is under the instruction of award-winning composer Joseph Turrin, Faculty, Composition and Scoring and the direction of Glen Adsit, Associate Director of Instrumental Studies Division and Director of Bands, of The Hartt School, University of Hartford.

14th Annual Mandell JCC Hartford Jewish Film Festival**March 13 - 23, 2010****At A Glance****What:** 14th Annual Mandell JCC Hartford Jewish Film Festival, 30 Films. 10 Days. 8 Countries.**New:** Children's Animated Film and Live Opera; Silent Film with Live Closing Night Concert & Reception, 3 *Reel Talk* Panels**When:** Saturday March 13 - Tuesday, March 23, 2010**Who:** Presented by Mandell Jewish Community Center with Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art Maurice Greenberg Center for Judaic Studies and The Hartt School, University of Hartford**Why:** Most popular Jewish arts event in Connecticut celebrating Jewish life, culture and people**Where:** Seven Greater Hartford venues: K & G Theatres Bloomfield 8, (Bloomfield) Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art (Hartford), Beth El Temple; Criterion Cinema, Blue Back Square; Hebrew Health Care, Mandell JCC, Wilde Auditorium/University of Hartford (West Hartford)**Tickets:** \$10 General Public; \$1 discount for students, Wadsworth Atheneum Film Buffs, Let's Go card-holders. Patron Passes Available. Credit cards, cash and checks (payable to Mandell JCC) Purchase by mail, in person, phone, fax at Mandell JCC, Zachs Campus, 335 Bloomfield Ave., West Hartford. CT 06117. Mandell JCC Main Phone: 860-236-4571. Opening Night \$50 Including Reception. Closing Night \$25 Including film, concert, reception.**Festival Box Office:** (p) 860-231-6316 • (f) 860-233-0802 • tickets@mandelljcc.org**Website:** www.hjff.org Official Program Guide available

14th Annual Mandell JCC Hartford Jewish Film Festival
March 13 - 23, 2010

SATURDAY, March 13

Aetna Theater at
The Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art

8:00 PM*Gefilte Fish & Hello Goodbye**Opening Night Gala Reception Following Film***SUNDAY, March 14**

K & G Theatres/Bloomfield 8
Bloomfield

12:00 PM*Voices From El Sayed***2:00 PM***Refusenik***5:00 PM***Bruriah***7:00 PM***Lemon Tree*

Mandell JCC, WH

3:00 PM*Something From Nothing**Film & Children's Opera***MONDAY, March 15**

Beth El Temple, West Hartford

7:00 PM*Love and Dance***TUESDAY, March 16**

Herbert Gilman Theater, Mandell JCC, WH

7:00 PM*No. 4 Street of Our Lady**Followed by Reel Talk***WEDNESDAY, March 17**

Hebrew Health Care, WH

4:30 PM*Close Harmony & From Shtetl to Swing*

Criterion Cinema, Blue Back Square, WH

7:00 PM*For My Father**Followed by Reel Talk***9:15 PM***Lemon Tree (Encore)***THURSDAY, March 18**

Criterion Cinema, Blue Back Square, WH

7:00 PM*La Camera Obscura***9:15 PM***The Debt***SATURDAY, March 20**

Aetna Theater at
The Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art

8:30 PM*Meeskeit & A Matter of Size***SUNDAY, March 21**

K&G Theatres, Bloomfield 8, Bloomfield

12:00 PM*The First Basket & Pride, Honor & Courage:
Jewish Women Remember World War II***3:00 PM***Eli and Ben***5:00 PM***Letters For Jenny***7:00 PM***Saviors In The Night***MONDAY, March 22**

Wilde Auditorium, University of Hartford

7:00 PM*Tribute: Observation on Survival and Spirit -
Lessons From The Holocaust
8 Short Films, Reel Talk, Reception***TUESDAY, March 23**

Herbert Gilman Theater, Mandell JCC, WH

7:00 PM*Hungry Hearts**Silent Film, Live Music, Reception*

Mandell JCC, Zachs Campus
335 Bloomfield Avenue
West Hartford, CT 06117
Box Office: 860-231-6316

Film Site: www.hjff.org
Director: Harriet J. Dobin, 860-231-6350
hdobin@mandelljcc.org
Main: 860 - 236 - 4571

Print Sources
2010 Mandell JCC Hartford Jewish Film Festival

A Matter of Size
www.menemshafilms.com

Bruriah
www.israelifilms.co.il

Close Harmony
www.filmakers.com

Eli and Ben
www.go2films.com

For My Father
www.filmmovement.com

From Shtetl to Swing
www.7thart.com

Gefilte Fish
shellyka@netvision.net.il

Holding Leah
mimihalberstam@aol.com

Hello Goodbye
www.liberationentertainment.com

Hungry Hearts
www.jewishfilm.org

La Camera Obscura
www.jewishfilm.org

Love and Dance
www.israelifilms.co.il

Lemon Tree
www.ifcfilms.com

Letters For Jenny
www.lunafilms.es

Meeskeit
www.neilneedleman.com

No. Four Street of Our Lady
www.7thart.com

Pigeon
kwookey@hotmail.com

***Pride, Honor and Courage:
 Jewish Women Remember WWII***
www.jhsg.org

Refusenik
www.go2films.com

Sarah and Hayah
www.sarahandhayah.com

Saviors in the Night
www.menemshafilms.com

Something From Nothing
www.portfolioentertainment.com

The Debt
www.ifcfilms.com

The First Basket
www.thefirstbasket.com

The Next Harvest
glenn@motioninc.com

The Wall
bmills@films.fsu.edu

Torte Bluma
www.adl.org

Toyland
www.magnetfilm.de

Writing Dachau
genevievessimms@gmail.com

Voices From El Sayed
www.go2films.com