



NEW YORK JEWISH

FILM FESTIVAL

JAN 10 - 23, 2018
NYJFF.ORG

film
society
lincoln
center

+



Presented by the Jewish Museum and the Film Society of Lincoln Center

The Jewish Museum and the Film Society of Lincoln Center are delighted to continue their partnership to bring you the 27th annual New York Jewish Film Festival, presenting films from around the world that explore the diversity of Jewish experience.

This year's festival features an exciting lineup of documentary, narrative, and short films, including new work by fresh voices in international cinema as well as restored classics.

Featuring the festival hit *Razzia* in its U.S. premiere, a documentary about Sammy Davis, Jr., and Amos Gitai's Cannes hit *West of the Jordan River*, the 27th NYJFF will engage and entertain film lovers of all backgrounds.

OPENING NIGHT

U.S. PREMIERE

Razzia

Nabil Ayouch, France/Morocco/Belgium, 2017, 120 min.

French/Arabic/Berber with English subtitles

Five Moroccans are pushed to the fringes in Casablanca by the extremist government in this kaleidoscopic drama, an honest and deeply humanistic portrait of contemporary Moroccans yearning for connection amidst political crisis.

WED, JAN 10, 7:30 PM

THU, JAN 11, 3:30 PM

CENTERPIECE

N.Y. PREMIERE

The Cakemaker

Ofir Raul Graizer, Germany/Israel, 2017, 104 min.

English/Hebrew/German with English subtitles

A gay German baker and the Israeli widow of the man they both loved connect after his death by auto accident in this delicate and graceful exploration of the fluidity of desire and sexuality.

THU, JAN 18, 6:30 PM

SAT, JAN 20, 9:30 PM



West of the Jordan River

CLOSING NIGHT

U.S. PREMIERE

West of the Jordan River

Amos Gitai, Israel/France, 2017, 87 min.

Hebrew/Arabic/English with English subtitles

In this powerful and moving new documentary, Amos Gitai returns to the West Bank to better understand the efforts of Israeli and Palestinian citizens to try to overcome the consequences of the 50-year occupation.

TUE, JAN 23, 12:30 & 6 PM

MAIN SLATE FILMS

N.Y. PREMIERE

Across the Waters

Nicolo Donato, Denmark, 2016, 95 min.

Danish with English subtitles

A Jewish guitarist and his family barely escape Copenhagen after the Nazis seize control, and set off to a remote fishing village in the north of the country in this masterful suspense thriller.

THU, JAN 18, 1 PM

SAT, JAN 20, 7 PM

N.Y. PREMIERE

An Act of Defiance

Jean van de Velde, Netherlands/South Africa
2017, 123 min.

English/Afrikaans with English subtitles

Based on the true story of the Rivonia Trial in apartheid South Africa, *An Act of Defiance* is the story of Bram Fischer, the lawyer who chose to put his life and freedom at risk to defend Nelson Mandela.

MON, JAN 15, 1 PM

TUE, JAN 16, 3:30 PM

N.Y. PREMIERE

The Cousin

Tzahi Grad, Israel/U.S.A., 2017, 92 min.
Hebrew/Arabic with English subtitles

A Palestinian handyman is accused of assaulting a young girl, and the progressive-minded Israeli actor who has hired him to do work on his house steps up as the lone voice in his defense in this morally complex, comic-tinged drama.

PRECEDED BY:

The Law of Averages

Elizabeth Rose, Canada/U.S.A., 2016, 13 min.

A young woman must sort out her relationship with her mother while they await the death of her grandmother.

TUE, JAN 16, 8:45 PM

WED, JAN 17, 6 PM



The Cousin

N.Y. PREMIERE

The Dead Nation (Tara Moarta)

Radu Jude, Romania, 2017, 83 min.

Romanian with English subtitles

Radu Jude's (*Aferim!*) hauntingly beautiful documentary consists entirely of photographs from photographer Costica Acsinte that present idyllic images of pastoral life and audio diary excerpts from a Jewish doctor, which portray a surging wave of anti-Semitism.

WED, JAN 17, 1:45 PM

SUN, JAN 21, 6:30 PM

U.S. PREMIERE

The Impure

Daniel Najenson, Israel/Argentina, 2017, 69 min.

Spanish/Hebrew/Yiddish with English subtitles

During the wave of Eastern European Jewish emigration, thousands of Jewish women were lured with promises of wealth to Argentinian brothels. This trenchant documentary investigates this history, and weaves in the filmmaker's own personal revelations on the matter.

PRECEDED BY:

U.S. PREMIERE

Compartments

Daniella Koffler & Uli Seis, Germany/Israel, 2017, 15 min.

Netta, a young Israeli woman, wishes to immigrate to Berlin. Her father, the son of Holocaust survivors, is horrified. Based on Daniella Koffler's personal story, *Compartments* is the first German-Israeli animation to explore collective memories of the Holocaust in the third generation.

TUES, JAN 16, 1:15 & 6:30 PM

N.Y. PREMIERE

The Invisibles

Claus Raefle, Germany, 2017, 116 min.

German with English subtitles

This extraordinary film tells the story of four of the 1,700 Jews who hid in plain sight in Berlin throughout the war, though the capital was famously declared "judenfrei" — free of Jews.

THU, JAN 18, 3:30 PM

SUN, JAN 21, 1:30 PM

N.Y. PREMIERE

Iom Romi (A Day in Rome)

Valerio Ciriaci, Italy/U.S.A. 2017, 30 min.

Italian with English subtitles

In this intoxicating short documentary, Valerio Ciriaci chronicles a day in the life of the contemporary Roman Jewish community.

FOLLOWED BY:

Della Seta Home Movies

Italy, 10 min.

Beautiful home movies of an Italian family.

AND:

N.Y. PREMIERE

Counterlight

Maya Zack, Israel, 2016, 24 min.

German with English subtitles

Inspired by the writings of the poet Paul Celan, Israeli visual artist Maya Zack crafts a hypnotic story of an archivist who becomes part of her own work.

SUN, JAN 21, 4:30 PM

The Invisibles



N.Y. PREMIERE

Su Goldfish, Australia, 2017, 81 min.

When director Su Goldfish discovers as an adult that she has siblings she's never met, she burrows through her parents' pasts to uncover the truth in this introspective autobiographical documentary.

WED, JAN 10, 12:30 PM

MON, JAN 15, 6:15 PM

N.Y. PREMIERE

Francesco Amato, Italy, 2017, 98 min.

Italian with English subtitles

A detached psychoanalyst finds his life recharged by the presence of a young, attractive, and undisciplined personal trainer in this comedy that veers from the intellectual to the delightfully slapstick.

PRECEDED BY:

The Backseat

Joe Stankus & Ashley Connor, U.S.A., 2016, 8 min.

In this charming documentary-fiction hybrid, two elderly parents rush to save the day when their adult daughter's car breaks down.

SAT, JAN 13, 7 PM

SUN, JAN 14, 4 PM

Let Yourself Go



N.Y. PREMIERE

Mr. and Mrs. Adelman

Nicolas Bedos, France, 2017, 120 min.

French with English subtitles

This hilarious and absurd take on the romantic comedy slyly toys with the cliché of writer and muse, following a man as he transforms from non-committal aspiring writer to fame-obsessed egotist.

TUE, JAN 23, 3 & 8:30 PM

U.S. PREMIERE

Praise the Lard

Chen Shelach, Israel, 2016, 60 min.

Hebrew with English subtitles

This documentary explores one of the biggest taboos in Judaism—pork—and how the existence of Israel's pork industry came to exemplify much of the tension inherent in Zionism.

PRECEDED BY:

U.S. PREMIERE

The Red House

Tamar Tal, Israel, 2016, 20 min.

Hebrew with English subtitles

In this beautifully animated short documentary, the history of one unique building in Tel Aviv becomes a reflection for the ever-changing face of Israeli society.

THU, JAN 11, 1 PM

SUN, JAN 14, 6:30 PM

U.S. PREMIERE

The Prince and the Dybbuk

Piotr Rosolowski & Elwira Niewiera

Poland/Germany, 2017, 82 min.

English, Italian, Spanish, Polish, German with English subtitles

Michał Waszyński is remembered as a Polish aristocrat, Hollywood producer, a reprobate and liar, an open homosexual and husband to an Italian countess, and director of one of the most important Jewish films of all time, *The Dybbuk*. But who was he really?

PRECEDED BY:

U.S. PREMIERE

A Hunger Artist

Daria Martin, U.K., 2017, 16 min.

Based on the 1924 short story by Franz Kafka, *A Hunger Artist* is the darkly-comic tale of an entertainer acclaimed for his ability to fast. A lush adaptation, *A Hunger Artist* understands the delicate tone of Kafka's work: fiercely anti-authoritarian, constantly self-effacing, and toeing the line between hilarious and heartbreaking.

WED, JAN 10, 2:45 PM

THU, JAN 11, 9 PM



Sammy Davis, Jr.: I've Gotta Be Me

Sam Pollard, U.S.A., 2017, 100 min.

In this exhilarating documentary, long-time Spike Lee collaborator Sam Pollard pays tribute to multi-talented, multi-racial entertainer Sammy Davis, Jr. by scrutinizing the political complexities and contradictions that defined his career.

SUN, JAN 14, 8:45 PM

U.S. PREMIERE

Tracking Edith

Peter Stephan Jungk

Austria/Germany/Russia/U.K. 2016, 91 min.

English/German/Russian/French

with English subtitles

This documentary follows filmmaker Peter Stephan Jungk's journey to understand his great aunt, the Austro-British photographer Edith Tutor-Hart, who lived a double life as a spy for the KGB and created the Cambridge Five, the Soviet Union's most successful spy ring in the United Kingdom.

MON, JAN 22, 3:30 & 8:30 PM



Shorts Program

107 min.

Various languages

WORLD PREMIERE

The Story of Jon Burgerman

Bas Berkhout, U.S.A./U.K., 2017, 6 min.

A whimsical artist explores how his family history affects his creative inspiration.

U.S. PREMIERE

El Becerro Pintado

David Pantaléon, Spain, 2017, 10 min.

In this experimental short, the biblical story of the golden calf is transported to rural Spain.

N.Y. PREMIERE

El Hara

Margaux Fitoussi & Mo Scarpelli, Tunisia/France, 2017, 16 min.

A vivid portrait of the old Jewish ghetto in Tunis.

WORLD PREMIERE

Summer

Pearl Gluck, U.S.A., 2017, 18 min.

Young, Orthodox Jewish girls explore their burgeoning sexuality amidst the strict rules of their sleep-away camp.

U.S. PREMIERE

Shlomi and Mazy

Leonhard Hofmann, Germany, 2016, 17 min.

An Israeli opera singer living in Berlin struggles to balance his career with his true passion: performing in drag as his alter ego, Mazy Mazeltov.

N.Y. PREMIERE

Heaven Is a Traffic Jam on the 405

Frank Stiefel, U.S.A., 2016, 40 min.

This warm portrait explores sculptor and visual artist Mindy Alper's journey through extreme depression to a place of love and openness via her creative process.

SUN, JAN 21, 8:30 PM

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

FROM THE VAULTS

N.Y. PREMIERE OF THE RESTORATION
Avanti Popolo

Rafi Bukai, Israel, 1986, 84 min.

Hebrew/Arabic/English with English subtitles

Two Egyptian soldiers stranded in the Sinai Desert in the aftermath of the Six-Day War try to make their way back to safety across the Suez Canal in this absurd comedy that paints a humanistic, antiwar picture of Middle Eastern politics.

THU, JAN 18, 9:15 PM

WORLD PREMIERE
OF THE RESTORATION
The Dybbuk

Michał Waszyński, Poland, 1937, 125 min.

Yiddish with English subtitles

A rich, ethnographic tapestry of Jewish legend, *The Dybbuk* is one of the finest films ever produced in the Yiddish language, filmed just before the outbreak of WWII and presented here in a brand-new restoration.

Presented in conjunction with

The Prince and the Dybbuk

SUN, JAN 14, 1 PM

WED, JAN 17, 8:45 PM



Avanti Popolo

Late Summer Blues



U.S. PREMIERE OF THE RESTORATION
Late Summer Blues

Renen Schorr, Israel, 1988, 103 min.

Hebrew with English subtitles

Late Summer Blues follows a group of high school graduates during the summer before they're conscripted into the army. Restored after thirty years, this Israeli classic portrays the paradox of Israeli adolescence in raw, deeply human terms.

MON, JAN 15, 8:30 PM

U.S. PREMIERE OF THE RESTORATION
Siege (Matzor)

Gilberto Tofano, Israel, 1969, 89 min.

Hebrew with English subtitles

Siege is the story of a widow whose husband was killed in the Six-Day War and who wants to begin to put her grief behind her. But her late husband's friends and family have other ideas—they expect her to remain in mourning for the rest of her life.

SAT, JAN 13, 9:30 PM

WORLD PREMIERE
OF THE RESTORATION
The Mission of Raoul Wallenberg

Alexander Rodnyanskiy, Soviet Union,

1990, 72 min.

Russian/English/German/Swedish

with English subtitles

The Mission of Raoul Wallenberg investigates the mysterious circumstances surrounding the disappearance and death of Raoul Wallenberg — who had saved tens of thousands of Jews from the Holocaust in Budapest — following the end of WWII.

MON, JAN 15, 4 PM

WED, JAN 17, 3:45 PM

Siege





One Day You'll Understand

TRIBUTE SCREENING

In Memory of Jeanne Moreau: *One Day You'll Understand*

Amos Gitai, France/Germany/Israel,
2008, 89 min.

French/German with English subtitles

When a middle-aged French businessman discovers a trove of wartime letters from his late father, he discovers that his mother, Rivka (Jeanne Moreau), is a Jew. Moreau is splendid in this film, directed by Amos Gitai, screening in tribute to the legendary late actress.

MON, JAN 22, 1 & 6 PM

SOVIET SHORTS

Drawing the Iron Curtain

Maya Balakirsky Katz with J. Hoberman

This selection features shorts from the Soviet Union's animation studio Soyuzmultfilm, which was as pervasive and influential in the Soviet imagination as Disney was in America's. Art history professor Maya Balakirsky Katz and film critic J. Hoberman will discuss how the studio brought together Jewish artists from all over the U.S.S.R. and served as a haven for dissident artists.

THU, JAN 11, 6:30 PM

TALKING MOVIES

MASTER CLASS

Sam Pollard

Join Sam Pollard, director of NYJFF Main Slate selection *Sammy Davis, Jr.: I've Gotta Be Me*, for a behind-the-scenes master class on documentary filmmaking.

An Emmy and Peabody award-winning director, Sam Pollard has directed and produced numerous documentary films.

SUN, JAN 21, 4 PM

ELINOR BUNIN MUNROE FILM
CENTER AMPHITHEATER

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC



Sammy Davis, Jr.: I've Gotta Be Me

SCHEDULE

WED, JAN 10

12:30 PM The Last Goldfish
 2:45 PM The Prince and The Dybbuk
preceded by A Hunger Artist
 7:30 PM Razzia

THU, JAN 11

1 PM Praise the Lard *preceded by*
 The Red House
 3:30 PM Razzia
 6:30 PM Drawing the Iron Curtain
 9 PM The Prince and The Dybbuk
preceded by A Hunger Artist

SAT, JAN 13

7 PM Let Yourself Go *preceded by* The
 Backseat
 9:30 PM Siege

SUN, JAN 14

1 PM The Dybbuk
 4 PM Let Yourself Go *preceded by* The
 Backseat
 6:30 PM Praise the Lard *preceded by*
 The Red House
 8:45 PM Sammy Davis, Jr.: I've Gotta Be Me

MON, JAN 15 — MLK DAY

1 PM An Act of Defiance
 4 PM The Mission of Raoul Wallenberg
 6:15 PM The Last Goldfish
 8:30 PM Late Summer Blues

TUE, JAN 16

1:15 PM The Impure *preceded by*
 Compartments
 3:30 PM An Act of Defiance
 6:30 PM The Impure *preceded by*
 Compartments
 8:45 PM The Cousin *preceded by*
 The Law of Averages

WED, JAN 17

1:45 PM The Dead Nation
 3:45 PM The Mission of Raoul Wallenberg
 6 PM The Cousin *preceded by*
 The Law of Averages
 8:45 PM The Dybbuk

THU, JAN 18

1 PM Across the Waters
 3:30 PM The Invisibles
 6:30 PM The Cakemaker
 9:15 PM Avanti Popolo

SAT, JAN 20

7 PM Across the Waters
 9:30 PM The Cakemaker

SUN, JAN 21

1:30 PM The Invisibles
 4 PM Master Class with Sam Pollard
 — Amphitheater*
 4:30 PM Iom Romi *followed by* Della Seta
 Home Movies *and* Counterlight
 6:30 PM The Dead Nation
 8:30 PM Shorts Program

MON, JAN 22

1 PM One Day You'll Understand
 3:30 PM Tracking Edith
 6 PM One Day You'll Understand
 8:30 PM Tracking Edith

TUE, JAN 23

12:30 PM West of the Jordan River
 3 PM Mr. and Mrs. Adelman
 6 PM West of the Jordan River
 8:30 PM Mr. and Mrs. Adelman

*Master Class Tickets

Free tickets will be distributed at the Elinor Bunin Munroe Film Center box office (144 West 65th Street) on a first-come, first-served basis starting one hour prior to the event. Limit one ticket per person, subject to availability.

TICKET INFO

ON SALE DATES

Members: **December 21**
 General Public: **December 28**

Tickets may be purchased online or in person at the Elinor Bunin Munroe Film Center and Walter Reade Theater box offices, 144 and 165 W 65th St. For our free event ticket policy and complete festival information, visit NYJFF.org.

TICKETS

Opening Night
\$25 General Public
\$20 Film Society and Jewish Museum Members
Festival Screenings
\$15 General Public
\$12 Students and Seniors (62 and over)
\$10 Film Society and Jewish Museum Members

SELECTION COMMITTEE

This year's New York Jewish Film Festival was selected by Rachel Chanoff, Director, THE OFFICE performing arts + film; Gabriel Grossman, Coordinator, New York Jewish Film Festival/Jewish Museum; Dennis Lim, Director of Programming, Film Society of Lincoln Center; Aviva Weintraub, Associate Curator, Jewish Museum and Director, New York Jewish Film Festival; and Tyler Wilson, Programming Associate, Film Society of Lincoln Center.

VENUES

Film Society of Lincoln Center
 Walter Reade Theater, 165 W 65th St
 Elinor Bunin Munroe Film Center, 144 W 65th St

FUNDERS

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The Jewish Museum is under the auspices of The Jewish Theological Seminary.

THE JEWISH MUSEUM

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Cover Image: Sammy Davis, Jr.: I've Gotta Be Me