

SPRING 2016
CINEMONDAYS
MARCH 28-MAY 23

35 YEARS
**PHILADELPHIA
JEWISH
FILM
FEST**

THE
GERSHMAN

IN SEARCH OF ISRAELI CUISINE

MONDAY, MARCH 28 | 7:30 PM | THE GERSHMAN Y

OPENING NIGHT



DIRECTOR: Roger Sherman

GENRE: Documentary

COUNTRY: USA

YEAR: 2016

RUNNING TIME: 97 min

LANGUAGE: English

SPECIAL GUESTS: Celebrity chef and restaurateur Michael Solomonov and Director Roger Sherman; moderated by Sierra Tishgart, Senior Editor of Grub Street, *New York Magazine*

SPONSORED BY:
Steve and Betsy Filton

SPECIAL EVENT: Book signing and reception (separate ticket needed to attend; see ticket page for details)

Reception sponsored in part by
Feinstein Center for American
Jewish History

PHILADELPHIA PREMIERE

Is there truly such a thing as Israeli cuisine? Michael Solomonov, the James Beard award-winning chef and restaurateur behind top Philadelphia dining establishments *Zahav*, *Abe Fisher*, *Dizengoff*, *Federal Donuts*, and *Percy Street Barbecue*, makes it his mission to find out. In what is clearly a labor of love, Solomonov travels the length and breadth of Israel, meeting with an eclectic group of professional and amateur chefs, cheese makers, vintners, farmers, and fisherman, who draw on their own ethnic heritage as they add to the ever-growing lexicon of Israeli cuisine. As Solomonov immerses himself in the local flavors of the 100+ cultures that make up the Israeli people, Oscar-nominated documentarian Roger Sherman offers a behind-the-scenes look at a dynamic Israeli food scene rooted in centuries-old tradition.



ISRAELI CUISINE SHOWCASES ALL OF ISRAEL. THERE'S A PRIDE IN ALL LOCAL ETHNIC FOOD NOW IN ISRAEL THAT HASN'T BEEN SEEN BEFORE.

—MICHAEL SOLOMONOV

FOR TRAILERS AND UP-TO-DATE SPEAKER INFORMATION,
PLEASE VISIT GERSHMANY.ORG OR PJFF.ORG | 215-545-4400

WEDDING DOLL

MONDAY, APRIL 4 | 7:30 PM | THE GERSHMAN Y



“

INSTEAD OF TRYING TO CREATE A PITIABLE PORTRAIT OF A WOMAN FIGHTING AGAINST THE ODDS, GILADY PLACES A THOUGHTFULLY DEVELOPED CHARACTER IN A COMPLEX AND IMPERFECT WORLD, SHOWING WHAT HAPPENS WHEN HER INNOCENCE IS CONFRONTED BY HUMAN HYPOCRISY AND GENERALIZED CRUELTY.

—ROBERT BELL, EXCLAIM

PHILADELPHIA PREMIERE

Co-Sponsored by the Israeli Film Festival of Philadelphia (IFF screening takes place on April 3rd at Ritz East)

Heart wrenching performances, assured direction, and striking cinematography illuminate this award-winning first feature for Israeli director Nitzan Gilady.

This compelling, coming-of-age tale is set in a small town in southern Israel's Negev Desert. Twenty-four-year-old Hagit (Moran Rosenblatt), socially scarred by a childhood bullying incident and struggling with a mild learning disability, lives with her nurturing, yet overbearing mother, Sarah (Assi Levy). A sensitive dreamer with a beaming smile and tenacious temperament, Hagit enjoys work at a toilet paper factory where she has fallen for Omri (Roy Assaf), her boss's handsome son. But like any young and beautiful woman, Hagit aspires to be something more. Asserting her independence, Hagit finds refuge and satisfaction in spending her evenings sketching out wedding dress designs and modeling miniature bride-dolls from the left over toilet paper rolls from work. When Hagit learns of the imminent closing of the factory, her evening pastime intensifies into an impossible fantasy, forcing Sarah to come to terms with her daughter's precarious grip on reality. As Omri prepares his own exit strategy, Hagit's road to self-discovery leads to an unexpected conclusion.

AWARDS & HONORS: Official Selection of the Toronto International Film Festival, Locarno International Film Festival, and Atlanta Jewish Film Festival | Audience Award Winner at the Locarno International Film Festival

DIRECTOR: Nitzan Gilady
GENRE: Narrative
COUNTRY: Israel
YEAR: 2015
RUNNING TIME: 82 min
LANGUAGES: Hebrew w/
English subtitles

SPECIAL GUESTS:
Director Nitzan Gilady and
Lead Actress Moran Rosenblatt

MOST LIKELY TO SUCCEED

MONDAY, APRIL 11 | 7:30 PM | THE GERSHMAN Y



DIRECTOR: Greg Whitely

GENRE: Documentary

COUNTRY: USA

YEAR: 2015

RUNNING TIME: 86 min

LANGUAGE: English

SPECIAL GUESTS:

Panel of distinguished educators

The traditional U.S. educational system was developed during the heyday of the 19th century industrial revolution; yet in the intervening century, and despite massive shifts in both the U.S. and world economies, it has done very little to keep pace. In acclaimed documentarian Greg Whitely's timely and poignant **MOST LIKELY TO SUCCEED**, he highlights what he sees as the failings of the American "memorization-based" education system, as well as introduces a potential alternative: San Diego's High Tech High.

Founded by Larry Rosenstock and funded primarily by Jewish philanthropist Irwin Jacobs, High Tech High completely reworks the traditional school experience by eschewing conventional courses and standardized testing for a more experimental project-based curriculum that espouses critical thought, collaboration, and problem solving. Rosenstock, a Boston University law graduate who taught carpentry and woodworking to inner city youths for over a decade, realized that the old way of teaching our children was ineffective in preparing them for the demands of the 21st century workforce and thus envisioned a program where students were given the agency to think independently and take education into their own hands.

As Whitely follows teachers, students, and parents — some of whom are admittedly skeptical of High Tech High's new experiential approach to learning — to see if this unorthodox, student-centered model can be the impetus for a paradigmatic shift in education, the viewer is left to consider what educational philosophy is most likely to succeed in our rapidly evolving technological future.

AWARDS & HONORS: Official Selection Sundance Film Festival, Tribeca Film Festival, American Film Institute, Dallas International Film Festival, Cleveland International Film Festival



**A MESSAGE AMERICANS NEED
TO HEAR, AND DESPERATELY TEST**

— HUFFINGTON POST

**AMONG THE BEST
EDU-DOCUMENTARIES
EVER PRODUCED**

— EDUCATION WEEK

**A SMART AND ENGAGING
LOOK AT EDUCATION IN
21ST-CENTURY AMERICA**

— THE HOLLYWOOD REPORTER

THE PEOPLE VS. FRITZ BAUER

MONDAY, APRIL 18 | 7:30 PM | KIMMEL CENTER

CENTERPIECE



DIRECTOR: Lars Kraume
GENRE: Narrative
(based on a true story)
COUNTRY: Germany
YEAR: 2015
RUNNING TIME: 105 min
LANGUAGES: German, English and
Yiddish with English subtitles

Tickets must be purchased
through the Kimmel Center of
Performing Arts (215-893-1999)

SPECIAL EVENT:
La Viola West dinner
5:30 pm promptly
\$50 per person
(Includes three courses, tax and tip)
BYOB
Seating is limited. Please call
215-545-4400 to make reservations.

PHILADELPHIA PREMIERE

Germany's leading actors Burghart Klaussner (*The White Ribbon*) and Ronald Zehrfeld (*Barbara*, *Phoenix*) star in this gripping historic thriller chronicling the apathy of 1950s postwar Germany towards the horrors of its recent past.

Attorney General Fritz Bauer, a German Jew who returns to his homeland after fleeing to Denmark in 1936, is a Social Democratic activist committed to bringing Nazi war criminals like Adolph Eichmann, Martin Bormann, and Joseph Mengele to justice. While attempts to silence him with slanderous accusations escalate in the court of public opinion, the dogged prosecutor pursues a promising lead and forms a secret alliance with Mossad, the Israeli Secret Service, who agree to aid Bauer in apprehending the mastermind of the Final Solution, Adolph Eichmann.

With exceptionally rich performances by Klaussner and Zehrfeld, astute direction by Kraume, and a moody jazz score by Kaiser and Maas, **THE PEOPLE VS. FRITZ BAUER** offers an edgy twist on a story we have come to know all too well—the compromising of justice for the sake of serving the economic interests of a few.

AWARDS & HONORS: Official Selection of the Toronto International Film Festival, Locarno International Film Festival, and Atlanta Jewish Film Festival | Audience Award Winner at the Locarno International Film Festival

CARVALHO'S JOURNEY

MONDAY, MAY 2 | 7:30 PM | THE GERSHMAN Y



Get your riding boots on and hoist your saddles up, ladies and gents. You are about to embark on an unprecedented journey to the American Western Frontier.

DIRECTOR: Steve Rivo
GENRE: Documentary
COUNTRY: USA
YEAR: 2015
RUNNING TIME: 85 min
LANGUAGE: English

SPECIAL GUEST: Director Steve Rivo

SPONSORED BY:
Jan Felman and Harvey Schwartz

PHILADELPHIA PREMIERE

CARVALHO'S JOURNEY tells the amazing story of Philadelphian Solomon Nunes Carvalho (1815-1897), an observant Sephardic Jew born in Charleston, South Carolina, and his life as a groundbreaking adventurer, painter, and photographer. When famed explorer John Frémont set out through the Rocky Mountains to find a transcontinental railroad route, he recruited Carvalho to document the trek using daguerreotypes, a then-recent photographic innovation that captured images on a silver-coated plate. Carvalho, who never fancied himself an explorer, understood that, despite his inexperience and the sacrifices such a journey would entail, the expedition would name him among the first photographers (certainly the first Jewish photographer) to document the sweeping vistas and breathtaking terrain of the American West. Surviving grueling conditions and recurrent food shortages, Carvalho recorded the treacherous details of his 2,400-mile journey in his daily journal entries (voiced by Michael Stuhlbarg of *Boardwalk Empire*, *Hugo*, *A Serious Man*), excerpts of which he later included in his bestselling 1857 memoir, *Incidents of Travel and Adventure in the Far West*.

Directed by award-winning documentarian Steve Rivo, **CARVALHO'S JOURNEY** highlights the vital contributions of Carvalho using rare archival photos and period etchings, interviews with scholars and writers, original landscape cinematography, and recreations of the daguerreotype process. Together, these weave a compelling narrative of the expansion of the American continent as seen through the eyes of a pioneering Jewish-American artist.



CRITICS PICK!
**THE #1 FILM TO SEE AT NEW YORK
JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL**

—TIME OUT NEW YORK

**A GREAT STORY...
STUNNING VISUALS...
A VERY RARE TREAT**

—HUFFINGTON POST

DEMON

MONDAY, MAY 9 | 7:30 PM | THE GERSHMAN Y



Welcome to the most extraordinary wedding celebration! Polish weddings are renowned for their wild revelry. Excessive feasting, drinking, and dancing spill over into the wee hours of the morning and will often last past sunrise. So please come prepared and don't say we did not warn you!

DIRECTOR: Marcin Wrona
GENRE: Narrative
COUNTRY: Poland
YEAR: 2015
RUNNING TIME: 94 min
LANGUAGES: English, Polish,
and Yiddish with English subtitles

Piotr (Israeli actor Itay Tiran) had much to look forward to on the eve before his wedding day. He had just arrived from England to wed the most beautiful woman he has ever met, his fiancée Zaneta (Agnieszka Zulewska). After a traditional Polish church ceremony, the couple planned to celebrate their nuptials surrounded by friends and family at Zaneta's family's country estate. It was going to be the best day of Piotr's life. Unfortunately for this bridegroom, not everyone felt the same. After finding skeletal remains buried on the family's property, Piotr was understandably shaken; but it is not until his wedding night that he truly begins to unravel. Overtaken by ghostly manifestations and epileptic fits, Piotr sends his wife and in-laws into a frenzy as it becomes increasingly clear that Piotr is possessed by a deceased Yiddish-speaking villager named Hannah. As the wedding party works overtime to keep its guests sloshed and ignorant of Piotr's condition, this sinister, modern-day take on the Jewish dybbuk legend takes on new meaning.

Rooted in themes of historical denial of Poland's troubled Jewish past, **DEMON** is adapted from *Adherence*, a 2008 play by noted Polish writer Piotr Rowicki. With the tragic death of **DEMON**'s young writer-director Marcin Wrona, which was announced shortly after the film's world premiere at the Toronto International Film Festival, **DEMON** takes on further poignancy.

Official Selection Leeds International Film Festival,
Sitges Film Festival, Toronto International Film Festival
and Warsaw Film Festival

FOR TRAILERS AND UP-TO-DATE SPEAKER INFORMATION,
PLEASE VISIT GERSHMANY.ORG OR PJFF.ORG | 215-545-4400

PRESENTING PRINCESS SHAW

MONDAY, MAY 23 | 7:30 PM | INTERNATIONAL HOUSE PHILA

CLOSING NIGHT



DIRECTOR: Ido Haar
GENRE: Documentary
COUNTRY: Israel
YEAR: 2015
RUNNING TIME: 78 min
LANGUAGES: English and Hebrew
with English subtitles

Warning: This documentary contains explicit lyrics and dialogue

SPECIAL GUESTS: Director Ido Haar, Kutiman, and Princess Shaw have been invited

PHILADELPHIA PREMIERE

Every day, thousands of wannabe stars upload videos to YouTube in the faint hope of being discovered, yet the overwhelming majority live out their lives in obscurity. Thirty-eight-year-old Samantha Montgomery was one such hopeful: an African-American eldercare nurse living in one of New Orleans' roughest neighborhoods and moonlighting as "Princess Shaw," a vivacious alter-ego who dreams of achieving stardom via the original a cappella songs she posts to her YouTube channel.

Meanwhile, on the other side of the planet, an Israeli remix artist who goes by "Kutiman" scours the web in search of his new musical muse. He comes across Princess Shaw and discovers a treasure trove of untapped inspiration in her naked and sultry lyrics. Stitching together YouTube clips of amateur musicians practicing their instruments, he creates an original orchestral accompaniment to Shaw's "Give It Up" and uploads it to the web for millions of fans to enjoy. What happens next is captured brilliantly in Ido Harr's extraordinary documentary **PRESENTING PRINCESS SHAW**.

A twenty-first century story of boy meets girl, via the power of music and YouTube. Do not miss one of the most memorable Closing Night films in PJFF history!

Official Selection Jerusalem Film Festival and Toronto International Film Festival

“**ASTOUNDING AND THOROUGHLY INSPIRATIONAL**
—VARIETY
WILL ACTUALLY MAKE YOU FEEL GOOD ABOUT HUMANITY
—YAHOO MOVIES

BRILLIANT DOCUMENTARY. COMPLETELY FASCINATING.
—HUFFINGTON POST

AN ACT OF MOVIE MAGIC... AND A TESTAMENT TO THE COMBINED POWER OF HARD WORK, TALENT AND DREAMS.
—THOM POWERS

CINEMONDAYS PASSES & TICKETS

CINEMONDAYS PASS

\$96 Includes Opening Night film
IN SEARCH OF ISRAELI CUISINE
and Book Signing/Reception*
+ 6 more CINEMONDAYS films.

*Passes do not include copy of
Zahav cookbook which is available
for \$35 and must be purchased
separately. Please visit pjff.org or
call 215.545.4400 for details.

SINGLE TICKETS

OPENING NIGHT! IN SEARCH OF ISRAELI CUISINE

Opening Night Film Only: \$15
(includes post-film discussion)

Opening Night Film +
Book Signing/Reception*: \$30

Opening Night Film + Book Signing/
Reception* + purchase of *Zahav*
cookbook** (\$5 savings): \$60

Purchase of *Zahav* cookbook: \$35

*Reception features Israeli wine and
hors d'oeuvres from *Dizengoff*

**Cookbooks will be available for
pick up on Opening Night at the
book table in The Gershman Y lobby

ALL OTHER FILMS

\$13 General Admission

\$11 Seniors

\$7 Students (must present full-time ID
at box office)

To purchase tickets online,
visit **PJFF.ORG**

To purchase tickets by phone,
call **215-545-4400**.

To arrange for group sales of ten or
more, call **215-446-3013** (discount will
be applied to total purchase)

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215-545-4400

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