

SPRING 2017
CINEMONDAYS
MARCH 20-MAY 8



36 YEARS

PHILA
DELPHIA
JEWISH
FILM
FEST

A Program of

THE GERSHMAN



Richard Gere in **NORMAN**
Image courtesy of Sony Pictures Classics

A photograph of two women wearing white headscarves, laughing joyfully together on what appears to be a rooftop. The background is a blurred cityscape under a bright sky. The image is partially overlaid by a pink text box at the bottom.

PJFF CINEMONDAYS

features six new films that exemplify the best in Jewish international cinema. From Israel's 2016 box office sensation **THE WOMEN'S BALCONY** and the Arab-Israeli knockout **IN BETWEEN**, to the Hungarian arthouse masterwork **1945** and the inspirational **FANNY'S JOURNEY** and **BIG SONIA**, you will love spending Monday evenings with PJFF this spring.

Want another reason to make room on your calendar? PJFF is one of only a handful of festivals in the world to offer filmgoers a sneak peek at Joseph Cedar's highly-anticipated follow-up to *Footnote*. Our exclusive preview screening of Cedar's **NORMAN** stars Philly-born Richard Gere alongside an ensemble cast including Lior Ashkenazi, Hank Azaria, Steve Buscemi, Charlotte Gainsbourg, Michael Sheen, and PJFF alumna, Neta Riskin.

THE WOMEN'S BALCONY

Monday, March 20 | 7:30 PM | Kimmel Center



Director: Emil Ben-Shimon
Israel | 2016 | 96 min
Hebrew with English subtitles

Sponsored by: Steve and Betsy Filton, and Ruth Perlmutter in memory of Archie Perlmutter

Special Event: Film followed by opening night reception with music and refreshments

Philadelphia Premiere

A box office sensation in Israel acclaimed by critics and filmgoers alike, **THE WOMEN'S BALCONY** is a charming, feel-good dramedy set in a religious Sephardic community in Jerusalem.

The women's balcony in a tight-knit Orthodox synagogue collapses during a Bar Mitzvah and leaves the rabbi's wife in a coma and the rabbi in shock. A young, neighboring rabbi is eager to lend a hand and offer his interpretation of the accident: what if the balcony crashed because the women are not modest enough? While the men appear to embrace Rabbi David's more fundamentalist views, the women resent being coerced into a life of submission. With loyalties and friendships tested and a gender rift channeling Aristophanes' *Lysistrata* deepening by the day, the women must organize to rebuild the balcony and reclaim their place in the congregation before it's too late.

Official Selection | Atlanta Jewish Film Festival (Closing Night), Boston Jewish Film Festival, Charlotte Jewish Film Festival, Miami Jewish Film Festival (Opening Night), Seattle Jewish Film Festival, and Toronto International Film Festival

Awards | Nominated for 5 Israeli Academy Awards

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VIEWERS WILL LEAVE
THE THEATER IN A
JOYOUS
MOOD

VARIETY

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THE MOST JOYFUL,
GOOD-HEARTED
AND CHARMING FILM
OF THE YEAR!

CINEMASCOPE

For trailers and up-to-date information, please visit gershmany.org or pjff.org | 215-545-4400

NORMAN

Monday, March 27 | 7:30 PM | Landmark Theatres Ritz East



IT CAN TAKE A TV SERIES AN ENTIRE SEASON TO ESTABLISH A **POLITICAL INTRIGUE** AS ELABORATE AS THE ONE CEDAR DEVISES HERE—AND EVEN LONGER TO FLESH OUT SUCH A FASCINATING PROTAGONIST.

VARIETY



IT'S ONE OF **RICHARD GERE'S STRONGEST PERFORMANCES IN RECENT YEARS**

THE GUARDIAN

Philadelphia Premiere

Fumbling through his proverbial Rolodex of friends and acquaintances who dwell in the upper echelons of the New York Jewish community, Norman Oppenheimer (Richard Gere) is a lonely dreamer who at his core is seeking a way to matter. With nothing of substance to offer and no real relationships to speak of, he strives to befriend all, trusting that someday his incessant networking will pay off. When Norman sets his sights on Micha Eshel (Lior Ashkenazi), a charismatic Israeli politician alone in New York on business, his golden ticket arrives in the form of a very expensive pair of shoes which he gifts Eshel, a gesture that succeeds to resonate with Eshel three years later, when he becomes Israel's new Prime Minister. Now, with a newfound connection to the leader of a major nation, Norman is awash in the respect he's always craved. Using Eshel's name to leverage his biggest deals ever, Norman's plans soon go awry, creating the potential for an international catastrophe only he can prevent.

With its stunning cast (including Hank Azaria, Steve Buscemi, Charlotte Gainsbourg, Neta Riskin, and Michael Sheen) and expert cinematography, **NORMAN** is an amusing and heady comic drama that continues to explore the writer-director's fascination with man's search for validation and meaning.

Writer/Director: Joseph Cedar
USA, Israel | 2016 | 117 min
English and Hebrew with English subtitles

Sponsored by:
Jan Felman and Harvey Schwartz

Official Selection | Telluride Film Festival and Toronto International Film Festival

1945

Monday, April 3 | 7:30 PM | The Gershman Y



Director: Ferenc Török
Hungary | 2016 | 93 min
Hungarian with English subtitles



THERE IS NOT A FRAME IN
THIS ASTONISHING SPIRITUAL
JOURNEY THAT ISN'T A THING OF
**HEARTFELT,
BREATHTAKING
BEAUTY.**

IGOR SHTEYNBERG,
DIRECTOR, MIAMI JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL

Philadelphia Premiere

Based on the short story, *Homecoming*, by Gábor Szántó, **1945** is set in a small Hungarian village shortly after liberation. As the town's folk prepare for a wedding between Szentés, the son of the influential village clerk, and Kisrózsi, the former fiancée of his friend, two Orthodox Jews arrive at the train station with mysterious boxes in tow. Bereft of Jews since their deportation during the war, the village is startled by the sudden resurgence of its former denizens. While some villagers wear their guilt like a cloak of shame, others fear retribution or that they will be forced to return their "ill-gotten gains." With everyone's sensitivity heightened, soon a chain of events unfurls and sends the quaint hamlet into turmoil.

The Oscar-winning *Ida* and Oscar-nominated *The White Ribbon* are two arthouse gems that come to mind when experiencing this hauntingly beautiful Hungarian film by Ferenc Török on the big screen.

Official Selection | Atlanta Jewish Film Festival, Berlinale, Miami Jewish Film Festival, San Diego Jewish Film Festival, and Santa Barbara Jewish Film Festival

Awards | Audience Award - Miami Jewish Film Festival

FANNY'S JOURNEY Holocaust Remembrance Day

Monday, April 24 | 7:30 PM | The Gershman Y



Philadelphia Premiere

Landing the role of the titular Fanny over 10,000 other aspiring young actresses, newcomer Léonie Souchaud delivers a flawless performance as a brave youngster leading a band of orphans through Nazi-occupied France in this suspenseful and handsomely shot coming-of-age drama based on the autobiographical novel by Fanny Ben-Ami.

After the arrest of their father, 13-year-old Fanny and her two younger sisters, Erika (Fantine Harduin) and Georgette (Juliane Lepoureau), are sent to a boarding school in France's neutral territory. It isn't long before their safety is compromised and Fanny and the other children are whisked away to yet another safe haven in the Italian zone. There, under the care of the stern but tender Madame Forman (César-winning actress Cécile de France), Fanny is given a job in the kitchen helping out Elie (Victor Meutelet), an affable and attractive young cook eager to join the resistance.

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**THE PERFECT FEEL-
GOOD MOVIE**
ELLE MAGAZINE

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**A HANDSOME,
COMPELLING
PERIOD PIECE**

VARIETY

Unfortunately, Fanny's new friendship is cut short when Mussolini's regime falls and Madame Forman is forced to devise a plan to save her charges. Equipped with fake passports and new names, the children embark on their journey to the Swiss border by train under Madame Forman's guidance. En route, as circumstances change for the worse, Madame Forman relinquishes her leadership role to Fanny, who despite her mounting fears realizes she has no other choice but to forge ahead.

Official Selection | Atlanta Jewish Film Festival, Charlotte Jewish Film Festival, Haifa International Film Festival, Hamburg Film Festival, London Film Festival, Miami Jewish Film Festival, Munich International Film Festival, Palm Beach Jewish Film Festival, San Diego Jewish Film Festival, and UK International Jewish Film Festival

Awards | Michel Award for Best Film, Hamburg Film Festival

Director: Lola Doillon
Belgium, France | 2016 | 94 min
French with English subtitles

Sponsored by:
Jan Felman and Harvey Schwartz,
and Dr. Marcia Sachs Littell in memory
of Dr. Franklin H. Littell z"l

IN BETWEEN

Monday, May 1 | 7:30 PM | The Gershman Y



Philadelphia Premiere

Sharing an apartment in the heart of Tel Aviv, three young Palestinian women with diverse aspirations come of age. Leila (Mouna Hawa), a chain-smoking criminal lawyer with unwavering wit and wild magnetism, enjoys dancing off workday stress in the underground club scene. Her good friend, Salma (Sana Jammeli), more subdued yet similarly stylish, is a DJ and bartender floating from gig to gig. Nour (Shaden Kanboursa), the youngest and most understated of the three, is a religious Muslim, engaged to be married, who moves in with Leila and Salma in order to study at the university.

Director: Maysaloun Hamoud
Producer: Shlomi Elkabetz
Israel | 2016 | 96 min
Arabic and Hebrew with
English subtitles

Sponsored by:
Larry and Cindy Rappoport

Though Nour finds her new roommates at once intimidating and intriguing, she enjoys her newfound independence and comes to appreciate the women as true friends. With everything going well and her studies in order, Nour arranges an evening alone with her conservative fiancé (Henry Andrawas) who is arriving for a visit. Incensed by his future bride's cosmopolitan existence and the liberal influences of her secular roommates, he entreats Nour to hasten their marriage, leave Tel Aviv, and assume her rightful role in the home. When Nour refuses his wishes, his violent rebuttal leaves her shaken, yet willing to kick the stakes up a notch.

With a rocking score by MG Saad, unforgettable performances, and bright, engaging camerawork, **IN BETWEEN** is a heart-thumping, compelling exploration of human frailty and resilience in the face of Israel's ever changing social landscape.

Official Selection | Atlanta Jewish Film Festival, Donostia-San Sebastián International Film Festival, Göteborg International Film Festival, Haifa International Film Festival, Miami Jewish Film Festival, Palm Springs International Film Festival, and Toronto International Film Festival



WHAT MAKES THIS SPIKY DRAMEDY SO COMPELLING ARE THE PALESTINIAN-ISRAELI PROTAGONISTS, WHOSE SPLIT LIVES HAVE RARELY BEEN DEPICTED ON SCREEN

VARIETY

BIG SONIA & JOE'S VIOLIN

Monday, May 8 | 7:30 PM | Kimmel Center



Directors:
Todd Soliday and Leah Warshawski
USA | 2016 | 93 min

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**THIS IS NOT LIKE
ANY OTHER HOLOCAUST
SURVIVOR FILM YOU’VE
SEEN, AND, IF YOU’RE
LIKE ME, YOU’RE NOT
LIKELY TO FORGET
BIG SONIA
ANY TIME SOON.**

ATLANTA JEWISH TIMES

JOE’S VIOLIN, an Academy Award-nominated documentary short directed by Kahane Cooperman, tells how a Holocaust survivor’s donation of his violin transforms the life of a young aspiring musician. Running 25 minutes.

Philadelphia Premiere

A mere four foot eight inches tall, 91-year-old Sonia Warshawski cannot help but leave an immense impression on everyone she meets. From her loyal customers at the tailor shop to the high school students, church groups, and prisoners whose lives have been so remarkably transformed by hearing her story, Kansas City’s last remaining Holocaust survivor is a force to be reckoned with. Spending the entirety of her teenage years shuttled between concentration camps, Sonia is no stranger to adversity. Her experiences during the war were horrifying and reprehensible, a nightmare Sonia is unable to rid from her memory. Yet, with all of the pain she still carries inside, Sonia’s outlook on life is anything but “doom and gloom.” With her wild fashion sense and larger-than-life persona, Sonia, along with her daughter, Regina, is committed to inspiring others with a powerful message of hope.

This award-winning, poignant documentary by husband and wife filmmaking team Todd Soliday and Leah Warshawski (Sonia’s granddaughter) artfully integrates animations inspired by Sonia’s own drawings and revelatory interviews with her family and friends.

Official Selection | Atlanta Jewish Film Festival, Big Sky Documentary Film Festival, Charlotte Jewish Film Festival, DOC NYC, Hartford Jewish Film Festival, Miami Jewish Film Festival, Napa Valley Film Festival, and Palm Beach Jewish Film Festival

Awards | Audience Award for Favorite Documentary Film, Napa Valley Film Festival

CINEMONDAYS TICKETS

TICKETS FOR SPECIAL SCREENINGS

3/20

\$25 OPENING NIGHT FILM THE WOMEN'S BALCONY

7:30 PM @ THE GERSHMAN Y
(includes film and admission to
Opening Night party with live music
and refreshments)

3/27

FREE! EXCLUSIVE SNEAK PREVIEW NORMAN 7:30 PM @ LANDMARK THEATRES RITZ EAST

Online registration for the general
public begins Monday, March 13.
Please note that there is a two-ticket
maximum. Reservations are first come,
first served. Attendees will not be
admitted without prior registration.

5/8

\$13/\$11 CLOSING NIGHT FILM BIG SONIA and JOE'S VIOLIN 7:30 PM @ KIMMEL CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

Tickets must be purchased at the
Kimmel Center Box Office (open daily
from 10 am - 6 pm) or at
www.kimmelcenter.org

TICKETS FOR ALL OTHER CINEMONDAYS SCREENINGS

\$13 General Admission

\$11 Seniors

FREE! College students (with full-
time IDs) and children under 18 are
welcome to attend all screenings at
The Gershman Y for free thanks to the
generous support of our PJFF donors.
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)

VENUES

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401 South Broad Street, Philadelphia
215-545-4400

LANDMARK THEATRES RITZ EAST

125 South 2nd Street, Philadelphia
215-925-4535

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