



**HANNAH  
ARENDT**  
The movie turns  
ideas into the  
best kind of  
entertainment.  
— A.O. Scott, *NY Times*

## RED FLAG

From *GIRLS* to no budget filmmaking, Alex Karpovsky's *RED FLAG* is sparse, brilliant.

— *Huffington Post*

## “ COMMIE CAMP

It is a wonderful, hopeful film raising serious issues that, thankfully, doesn't take itself too seriously. It's a film that will make you laugh, possibly cry, and certainly have faith in at least one segment of the next generation.

— *Lainey Feingold, Beyond Chron*

**AFTERMATH**  
Pekolsie may be the most  
controversial Polish film ever  
made, for it touches a raw  
nerve among Poles: that of  
past anti-Semitism in Poland  
and its persistence today.  
— A.H., *Economist*

Delightful cinematic gem that leaves  
you wanting more . . . Do not miss out!

— *TimeOut Tel Aviv*

If the ideas underlying the Oscar-nominated documentary  
“The Gatekeepers” were encapsulated into a feature  
film, it would look a lot like Yariv Horowitz's

## ROCK THE CASBAH.

— *Hannah Brown, J Post*

**THE  
CARDINAL**  
Laurent Lucas embodies with emotion  
and spirit the internal turmoil of his  
character... fascinating, even for the  
most atheist of viewers.

— *Télérama*

## ORCHESTRA OF EXILES

aspires to a level of primary research that other  
historical documentaries could take a page from.

— *Nicolas Rapold, New York Times*

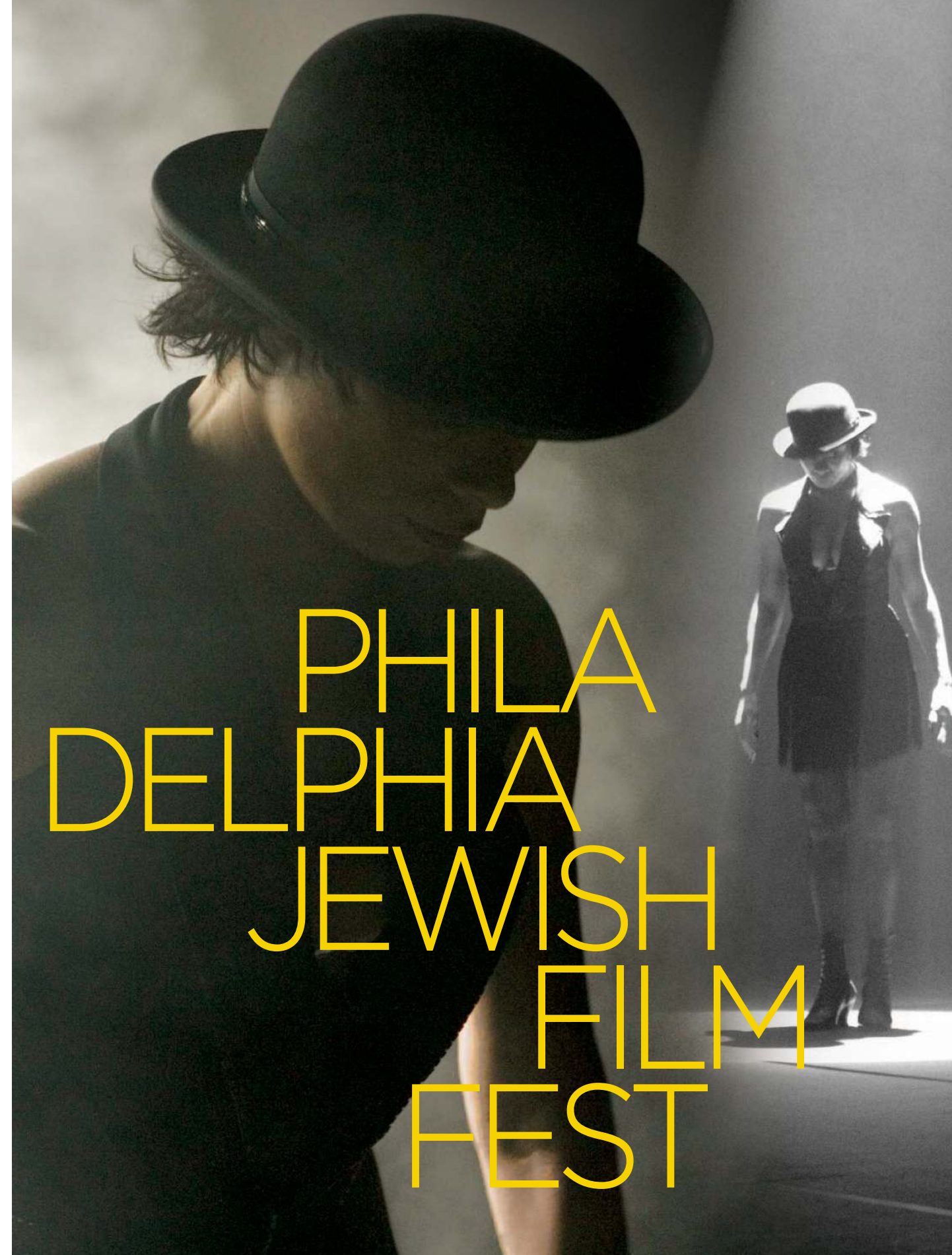
What looks at the outset to be a straightforward vigilante movie  
about a trio of hot-headed religious watchdogs in Israel turns  
into a worthy study of personal maturation and growth in

## ” GOD'S NEIGHBORS.”

— *Todd McCarthy, The Hollywood Reporter*

**“ MY AWKWARD SEXUAL ADVENTURE**  
This indie rom-com from Canada puts a refreshing new spin on the  
boy meets bad-girl trope. — *David Noh, Film Journal International*

2013  
DIRECTORY  
OF FILMS  
AND EVENTS  
NOVEMBER 2-16



PHILA  
DELPHIA  
JEWISH  
FILM  
FEST



PHYLLIS FISHER, Chair, PJFF  
IRIS DRESCHLER, Artistic Chair  
JUDY GOLDEN, Chair Emeritus  
RUTH PERLMUTTER,  
Artistic Director Emeritus  
OLIVIA ANTSIS, PJFF Director

## WELCOME TO THE 33RD PHILADELPHIA JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL!

As the second longest-running series of its kind in the United States and Philadelphia’s first film festival, the critically-acclaimed Philadelphia Jewish Film Festival (PJFF) has presented over 500 international films that highlight the diversity and commonality of the human experience.

From inception, The Gershman Y’s PJFF has had one consistent mission: to entertain, educate and engage the greater Philadelphia community by presenting films and programs that explore universal themes and values that deepen our understanding of ourselves and society-at-large. This year we aim to do this even better.

The Gershman Y is currently undertaking a process of reinvention, seeking to create programs that answer the needs of a changing demographic. As part of this effort, and in recognition of the increasing diversity of our audiences, we are offering films and programs to accommodate a range of ages and tastes. For the first time in the Festival’s history, we present a Family Film Day, Date Nights, University programs, Matinee Lunch Box programs and pre-Festival screenings. The impressive line-up of 21 films represent 11 countries, are being shown at 10 different venues and include 11 Philadelphia premieres, including best picture winners at the Cannes and Venice Film Festivals. Our closing night surprise is none other than Bethlehem, winner for Best Picture and 4 other top honors at the recent Ophir Awards (Israel’s version of the Academy Awards).

This year’s theme is *Lights! Camera! Interaction!* Audience members will have the opportunity to share their views and engage in stimulating discussion with a host of guest filmmakers, screenwriters, actors, scholars and experts. We are very excited by the impressive line-up of guests who will be on hand to meet you. (See Page 13 for an introduction to some of “our cast.”) It’s these programs and opportunities to delve deeper into the themes of the films which distinguish the PJFF from other film festivals.

We hope you will enjoy the new look of our PJFF Directory. Note that the center page was designed to make it easy to fold up and keep with you throughout the Festival.

See you at the movies!

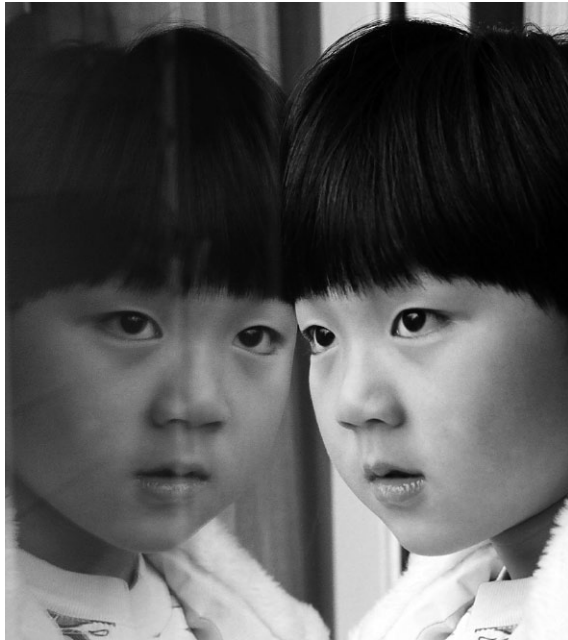
Linda Steinberg  
*Executive Director, The Gershman Y*

COVER:  
Val Pettiford in Jay Kamen’s “Not Your Time”,  
Courtesy of Mission Filmworks.  
Photo by Eric Ortiz & Michael Nie

# PJFF @ KENESETH ISRAEL (KI)

PRE-FILM FESTIVAL CELEBRATION FEATURING  
ENCORE PRESENTATIONS OF PJFF AUDIENCE FAVORITES:

NOODLE | 50 CHILDREN: THE RESCUE MISSION OF MR. AND MRS. KRAUS | CRIME AFTER CRIME



NOODLE | SUNDAY, OCT 13 | 3 PM | KI

**NOODLE** is a charming and suspenseful drama in which two people resolve to defeat the barriers of language through empathy and love. Flight attendant Miri agrees to watch the 6-year-old son of her Chinese maid for “just one hour.” However, when the boy’s mother does not return, Miri must decide what to do with the innocent boy who cannot speak a lick of Hebrew. To reunite “Noodle” with his mom, Miri must rise above her fears and sacrifice her own emerging maternal feelings for the young child.

DIRECTOR: Ayelet Menahemi  
GENRE: Drama  
COUNTRY: Israel  
YEAR: 2007  
RUNNING TIME: 90 min  
LANGUAGE: Hebrew | English |  
Mandarin with English subtitles

SUBJECTS: Parenting, loneliness,  
connection, humanity, immigration, Israel

SPECIAL EVENT: Post-film reception with  
Kosher Chinese snacks

50 CHILDREN: THE RESCUE MISSION OF MR. AND MRS. KRAUS | MONDAY, OCT 14 | 7:30 PM | KI

DIRECTOR: Steven Pressman  
GENRE: Documentary  
COUNTRY: USA  
YEAR: 2013  
RUNNING TIME: 62 min  
LANGUAGE: English

SUBJECTS: Holocaust, heroism,  
sacrifice, Nazis, immigration

SPECIAL EVENT: Post-film talk with  
director Steven Pressman

**50 CHILDREN** reveals the dramatic and never-before-told story of Gilbert and Eleanor Kraus, a Jewish couple from Center City Philadelphia who, in 1939, traveled to Nazi-occupied Vienna in a daring effort to rescue 50 children and bring them back to the United States. Not only did the Krauses have to deal with high-ranking Nazi officials in Berlin and Vienna, but they also had to get around America’s rigid and bigoted immigration policies, making it nearly impossible to bring Jewish refugees to the United States. In carrying out this incredible mission, Gilbert and Eleanor Kraus were responsible for rescuing the largest known American transport of refugee children during the Holocaust.



CRIME AFTER CRIME & CONVERSATION WITH JOSHUA SAFRAN | WED, OCT 16 | 7:30 PM | KI



**CRIME AFTER CRIME** tells the dramatic story of the legal battle to free Debbie Peagler, an incarcerated survivor of domestic violence. Over 26 years in prison could not crush the spirit of this determined African American woman, despite the wrongs she suffered at the hands of a duplicitous boyfriend who beat her and forced her into prostitution. And later, prosecutors used the threat of the death penalty to corner her into a life behind bars.

Her story takes an unexpected turn two decades later when two rookie land-use attorneys, Joshua Safran and Nadia Costa, step forward to take her case. Through their perseverance, they soon uncover a trail of prosecutorial misconduct that began with Deborah’s arrest and continues to the present day. Their discoveries sent the case into the headlines and launched a movement that not only advocated for Deborah’s freedom, but also raised a banner for battered women and the wrongfully imprisoned around the world.

After the film, join PJFF and KI for a conversation and reading with one of the subjects of **CRIME AFTER CRIME**, Joshua Safran.

**CRIME AFTER CRIME** profiles the strength Safran drew from his faith as a Jew. But what isn’t explored in the film is just as dramatic and heartbreaking—Safran’s own story, which illuminates his reasons for taking on the Peagler case in the first place.

In **FREE SPIRIT: Growing Up on the Road and off the Grid** (Hyperion Books), Safran writes a viscerally powerful and eloquent memoir that shows the darker side of the Age of Aquarius. He recounts hitchhiking across the American West with his Wiccan revolutionary mother and standing up to his violent, alcoholic, guerilla-fighter stepfather. He reveals how he overcame adversity and reconnected to his Jewish heritage.

Come see why Safran has been described as one of the next generation’s most inspired spiritual leaders and why *Publishers Weekly* calls Safran’s stories “introspective, hilarious, and heartbreaking.”

FOR TICKETS OR MORE INFO VISIT PJFF.ORG | 1

# GOD’S NEIGHBORS

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2 | 8 PM | GERSHMAN Y |



**PHILADELPHIA PREMIERE** A gripping and gritty drama highlighting the conflicts between fanatical religion, secular Israeli life, and the laws of love, **GOD’S NEIGHBORS** was selected for Cannes Film Festival Critics’ Week in 2012.

Avi, Kobi, and Yaniv, young working-class zealots, have appointed themselves enforcers of the Torah in their neighborhood of Bat Yam. Calling themselves “The Supervisors,” this hot-headed trio of yeshiva boys ensures that women are dressed appropriately, that business owners respect Shabbat, and that the Arabs passing through from Jaffa don’t overstay their welcome. The group’s dynamic is challenged when their leader, Avi, threatens a young woman who defies their rules, yet awakens his desire.

DIRECTOR/WRITER: Meni Yaesh  
GENRE: Drama  
COUNTRY: Israel  
YEAR: 2012  
RUNNING TIME: 102 min  
LANGUAGE: Hebrew with English subtitles

SUBJECTS: Israeli life, fanaticism, religion, friendship, drama, action, romance, date night, boys night out, girls night out

FOR FANS OF: *Mean Streets*, *Goodfellas*, and *West Side Story*

OPENING NIGHT

# SUKKAH CITY

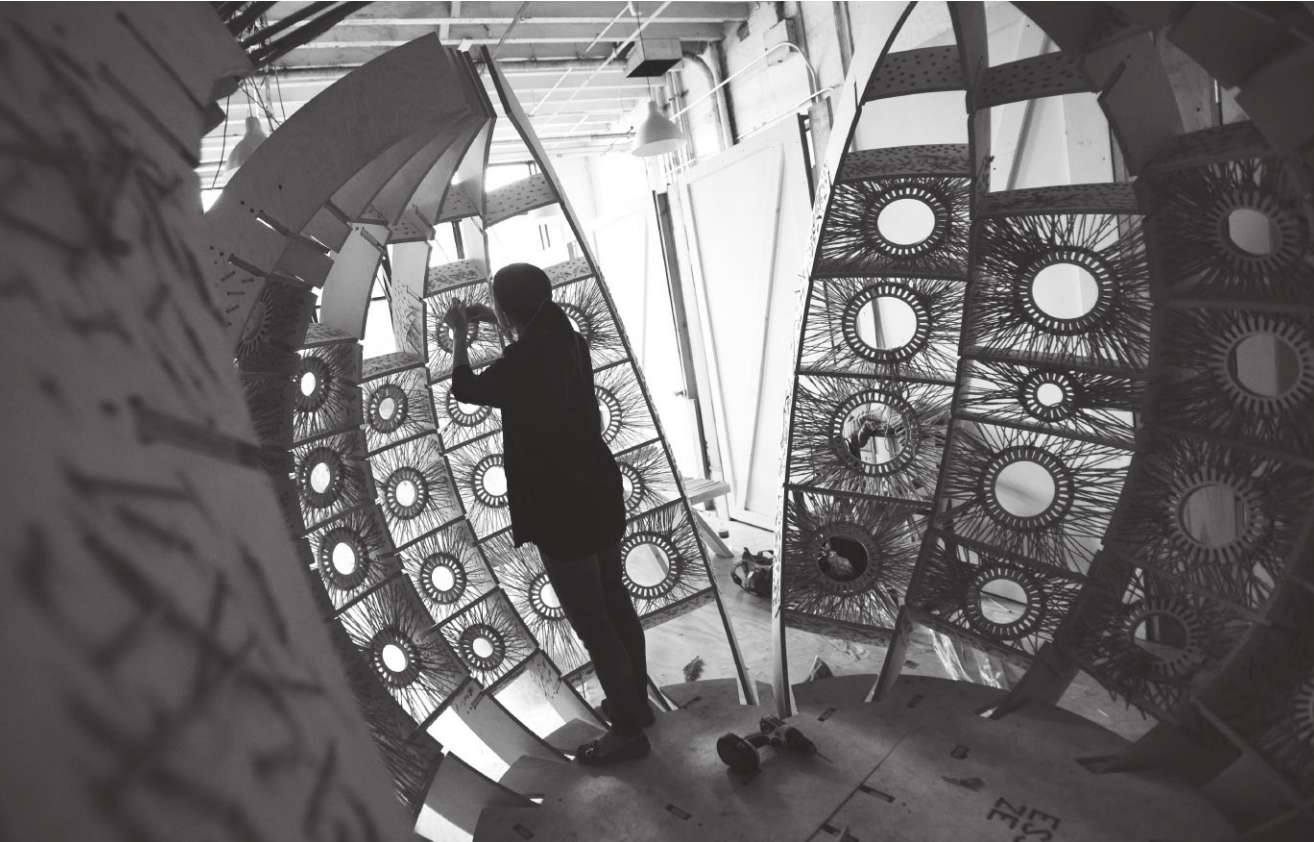
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3 | 3 PM | GERSHMAN Y

DIRECTOR: Jason Hutt  
GENRE: Documentary  
COUNTRY: USA  
YEAR: 2013  
RUNNING TIME: 67 min  
LANGUAGE: English

SPECIAL EVENT: Panel Discussion  
MODERATOR: Architecture Critic Inga Saffron  
PANELISTS: Director Jason Hutt and Co-founder of *Sukkah City* Joshua Foer

SUBJECTS: Jewish life, Jewish tradition, architecture, design, public art, documentary

**PHILADELPHIA PREMIERE** When best-selling author Joshua Foer (*Moonwalking With Einstein*) envisioned his first *sukkah*’, he wanted to move beyond generic plywood boxes and status quo canvas tents. He wondered what would happen if the world’s most innovative contemporary architects and designers were challenged to visualize and construct twelve radical sukkahs (Hebrew: Sukkot). What would they come up with? And so was born the 2010 design competition and exhibition known as *Sukkah City*. This dazzling art doc follows the competition from its early submission stage through to execution and public exhibition in NYC’s Union Square. Featuring luminaries such as Michael Arad, designer of the World Trade Center Memorial; Paul Goldberger, architecture critic for the *New Yorker*; celebrated author and artist Maira Kalman; and the venerable Dr. Ruth Westheimer, **SUKKAH CITY** invites you to experience this beautiful convergence of architecture and tradition and never look at a sukkah the same way again.



1: a temporary shelter covered in natural materials built for the week-long Jewish festival of Sukkot

# ROCK THE CASBAH

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3 | 7 PM | AMBLER THEATER



DIRECTOR: Yariv Horowitz  
WRITERS: Yariv Horowitz | Guy Meirson  
GENRE: Drama  
COUNTRIES: Israel | France  
YEAR: 2012  
RUNNING TIME: 95 min  
LANGUAGE: Hebrew | Arabic | Russian with English subtitles

SPECIAL GUEST: Director Yariv Horowitz

SUBJECTS: IDF, Israel, Israeli-Palestinian conflict, war, violence, friendship, coming-of-age

FOR FANS OF: *Jarhead*, *Waltz with Bashir*, *Beaufort*, and *Lebanon*

**AMBLER PREMIERE** The year is 1989. With the First Intifada raging, the State of Israel sends young soldiers to oversee the Arab population in Gaza. When an Israeli soldier is killed by a washing machine pushed from a neighboring roof, the fate of four young soldiers and one Palestinian family is sealed. **ROCK THE CASBAH** is a riveting exploration of the hell of war, and one of the first Israeli films to realistically portray the conflicted experiences of IDF soldiers stationed in the Occupied Territories during this time. Winner of the International Confederation of Art Cinemas Award at the Berlin International Film Festival, this edgy and compelling first feature by Yariv Horowitz is based on the director’s own experience as a young military photographer in the West Bank.

# HANNAH ARENDT

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 4 | 7 PM | INTERNATIONAL HOUSE | **CAMPUS NIGHT**

DIRECTOR: Margarethe von Trotta  
WRITERS: Pamela Katz | Margarethe von Trotta  
GENRE: Drama  
COUNTRIES: Germany | Luxembourg | France  
YEAR: 2012  
RUNNING TIME: 113 min  
LANGUAGE: English | French | German | Hebrew | Latin with English subtitles

SPECIAL EVENT: Panel discussion  
MODERATOR: Professor Elliot Ratzman  
PANELISTS: Screenwriter Pam Katz and Professor Liliane Weissberg

SUBJECTS: WWII, philosophy of evil, ethics, journalism, Nazi ideology, Eichmann Trial, Jewish leadership, academia, political theory

FOR FANS OF: *A Dangerous Method*, *My Dinner with Andre*, *Judgment at Nuremberg*, and *Crimes & Misdemeanors*

Why do mediocre men commit profound acts of evil? When philosopher Hannah Arendt was sent to cover the 1961 trial of Nazi Adolf Eichmann, her writings launched years of controversy over the nature of evil, the compliance of the victims’ leadership, and the responsibility of humankind to question and resist conformity. Hannah Arendt’s career was shaped by the horrors of the 20th century, and this fascinating biopic engages her circle of friends, intellectuals, and activists, to explore her life before and after *Eichmann in Jerusalem*. Using archival documentary footage and weaving a narrative that spans three countries, director Margarethe von Trotta (*Vision, Rosa Luxemburg*) beautifully turns the often invisible passion of thought into immersive, dramatic cinema. The film features a pair of stunning performances by Barbara Sukowa as Hannah Arendt and two-time Oscar Nominee Janet McTeer (*Albert Nobbs, The Way Way Back*) as novelist Mary McCarthy. An official selection at the Toronto International and New York Jewish Film Festivals, **HANNAH ARENDT** sparks intense discussion wherever it is seen.



# COMMIE CAMP

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5 | 7 PM | NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER



DIRECTOR: Katie Halper  
WRITER: Katie Halper  
GENRE: Documentary  
COUNTRY: USA  
YEAR: 2013  
RUNNING TIME: 69 min  
LANGUAGE: English

SPECIAL EVENT: Panel Discussion  
MODERATOR: Billy Yalowitz  
PANELISTS: Camp Kinderland Alums: Director Katie Halper, Attorney Josh Kershenbaum, Leibel Shulman, and Gloria Smith

SUBJECTS: Jewish contemporary life, American history, social justice, activism, human rights, Tikkun Olam, camp life

COMMUNITY PARTNER: The Myer and Rosaline Feinstein Center for American Jewish History at Temple University

**PHILADELPHIA PREMIERE** *Welcome to the age of McCarthyism.* But wait, didn’t the “Red Scare” occur over half a century ago? Not according to Rush Limbaugh. Just last year, Limbaugh blasted Obama’s nominee for the Bureau of Labor Statistics for sending her kids to a “politically left-wing Jewish summer camp with Communist roots.” The unofficial head of the Republican Party publicized a report claiming that Camp Kinderland “indoctrinates” its campers with extremist and dangerous ideology. **COMMIE CAMP**, the personal and humorous documentary by comedian, filmmaker, and Camp Kinderland alum Katie Halper, follows four unusually thoughtful and articulate nine-year-olds from the first day of camp to the last. With bunk names like Shalom Aleichem, Harriet Tubman, and Roberto Clemente; the World Peace Olympics (Camp Kinderland’s alternative to Color War); and special commemorative events honoring victims of the Holocaust and the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, it’s no surprise so many Camp Kinderland alumni have dedicated their lives to making the world a better place.

# RED FLAG

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 6 | 7 PM | RITZ EAST | **DATE NIGHT**



DIRECTOR: Alex Karpovsky  
WRITER: Alex Karpovsky  
GENRE: Comedy  
COUNTRY: USA  
YEAR: 2012  
RUNNING TIME: 83 min  
LANGUAGE: English

SPECIAL GUEST: Director Alex Karpovsky in conversation with co-star Jennifer Prediger  
SPECIAL EVENT: After-party with Special Guests Alex Karpovsky and Jennifer Prediger (Location TBA)

SUBJECTS: Meta-comedy, dark comedy, romance, love, fear, commitment, micro-budget filmmaking, road trip

FOR FANS OF: *Girls*, *Curb Your Enthusiasm*, *The Trip*, and *Going Places*

COMMUNITY PARTNERS: Davai, Renaissance Group, Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia, The Collaborative, Young Friends of NMAJH

**PHILADELPHIA PREMIERE** Join PJFF for a special evening with director/writer/actor and rising star Alex Karpovsky and his new film **RED FLAG**. In this hilarious blur of art and life, Alex Karpovsky (*Girls, Tiny Furniture, Inside Llewyn Davis, Supporting Characters*) plays an exaggerated version of himself, an indie filmmaker named Alex Karpovsky who is at a crossroads with his estranged girlfriend as he’s about to embark on a Southern film tour of his real-life mockumentary *Woodpecker*. Trekking across college campuses and art house theaters through six states below the Mason-Dixon Line, Karpovsky picks up an old acquaintance and an unexpected over-zealous *fan fatale*, while tripping over his own demons and anxieties. Part existential meta-comedy, part misbegotten road movie, **RED FLAG** is a painfully funny meditation on love, commitment, and the human inability to change.

## ABOUT THE FILMMAKER

When he is not busy playing one of the guys on HBO’s hit comedy series *Girls* or shooting scenes for indie icons the Coen Brothers, Alex Karpovsky can be found juggling multiple film projects, with occasional breaks to visit his Russian Jewish family outside Boston. With seventeen acting credits and five feature films—several of which he’s directed, written, and starred in—it’s no wonder Alex has earned a string of comparisons to comedy behemoths Woody Allen, Albert Brooks, and Larry David. Alex’s award-winning debut feature THE HOLE STORY earned him a slot in Filmmaker Magazine’s 25 new faces of independent film and a plastic key to a small city in Northern Minnesota. His subsequent feature-length films include WOODPECKER (SXSW 2008), TRUST US, THIS IS ALL MADE UP (SXSW 2009), RUBBERNECK (Tribeca Film Festival 2012) and RED FLAG (Los Angeles Film Festival 2012) —the last two released in the same week earlier this year.

# KOCH

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7 | 11 AM | GERSHMAN Y | **LUNCH PROGRAM**

Who is Ed Koch, really? Some claim he single-handedly turned New York City into the success it is today, while others have faulted his compromised liberalism. The wisecracking Koch rose through New York’s Democratic Party as a reform candidate, championing progressive causes, unexpectedly winning the mayoral race as a get-tough, no-nonsense candidate, and eventually losing a governor’s race to a young Mario Cuomo. Neil Barsky’s rousing debut documentary delves deep into Koch, the inner person, thoughtfully exposing a side of the mayor most have never seen before. From his young idealistic beginnings through his final two years as a candid, curmudgeonly political lion, one thing is certain: while Ed Koch is still considered by many to be New York’s quintessential mayor, he is equally reviled by others for his perceived political failings. Koch’s signature phrase: “How am I doing?” invites viewers to assess his impressive, if checkered career, as the New York City Mayor who wasn’t afraid to “turn the beat around” and make some noise.

DIRECTOR: Neil Barsky  
GENRE: Documentary  
COUNTRY: USA  
YEAR: 2012  
RUNNING TIME: 100 min  
LANGUAGE: English

SPECIAL GUESTS: Director Neil Barsky in conversation with Author/Journalist Carol Saline  
SPECIAL EVENT: Post-film discussion and box lunch

SUBJECTS: NYC, politics, history, cities, sociology, race, LGBT, urban renewal



# PARIS-MANHATTAN

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7 | 7 PM | THE GERSHMAN Y | **DATE NIGHT**



**PHILADELPHIA PREMIERE** Alice—the smart and beautiful, thirty-something Parisian pharmacist—seems like every man’s dream. There’s just one thing standing in the way of Alice’s chances for love: her obsession with Woody Allen. The biggest Woody fan Paris has ever seen, Alice not only lends all her friends and customers copies of Allen’s films, but often has deep “conversations” with the master director by way of a poster on her bedroom wall. Despite sweet advances from Victor, a charming bachelor and family friend, Alice remains resolute in her single status, with no man short of Woody ever good enough for her. When a variety of misadventures draw Alice and Victor close, Alice begins to reconsider the love affair with her beloved auteur, and to see there may be more to life than what is projected on the screen.

DIRECTOR: Sophie Lellouche  
GENRE: Romantic comedy  
COUNTRY: France  
YEAR: 2012  
RUNNING TIME: 77 min  
LANGUAGE: French with English subtitles

SPECIAL GUEST: TBA

SUBJECTS: Romance, comedy, love, Paris, Woody Allen

FOR FANS OF: Woody Allen films

# THE JEWISH CARDINAL

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9 | 8 PM | PRINCE MUSIC THEATER



**PHILADELPHIA PREMIERE** From award-winning director Ilan Duran Cohen comes this compelling drama based on the amazing true story of Jean-Marie Lustiger, the son of Polish Jewish immigrants, who maintained his cultural identity as a Jew even while converting to Catholicism at a young age and later joining the priesthood. Quickly rising within the ranks of the Catholic Church, the mercurial Lustiger is appointed Archbishop of Paris by Pope John Paul II—and finds a new platform to celebrate his dual identity as a Catholic Jew, earning him both friends and enemies. When Carmelite nuns settle down to build a convent within the cursed walls of Auschwitz, Lustiger finds himself a reluctant mediator between the two communities and may be forced at last to choose his side. Filled with strong performances and a fascinating look behind the scenes at the Vatican, **THE JEWISH CARDINAL** swept honors and awards in France last year.

**THE JEWISH CARDINAL** screens in commemoration of *Kristallnacht*.

## ABOUT OUR GUEST HOST

An award-winning journalist, scholar, museum specialist, film producer, and prolific author, **Michael Berenbaum** is lauded on the world stage for his ability to make the lessons of the Holocaust relevant and meaningful for new generations. He oversaw the creation of the Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington D.C. as its Project Director, and has been the conceptual developer for the Illinois Holocaust Museum and Educational Center (Skokie, IL) and the Belzec Memorial (Belzec, Poland). He has acted as historical consultant for the Shoah Foundation’s Oscar-winning documentary, *The Last Days*, and for HBO’s Emmy-nominated *Conspiracy*, among other film and TV projects. The author of twenty books and scores of articles and papers, and Executive Editor of the award-winning Second Edition of the *Encyclopedia Judaica*, Berenbaum has taught at Georgetown, Yale, Wesleyan, and other universities, and is now on the faculty of the American Jewish University in Los Angeles.

CENTERPIECE

DIRECTOR: Ilan Duran Cohen  
GENRE: Drama  
COUNTRY: France  
YEAR: 2012  
RUNNING TIME: 90 min  
LANGUAGE: French with English subtitles

SPECIAL GUEST: MICHAEL BERENBAUM

SUBJECTS: Drama, religion, interfaith, conversion, Judaism, Catholicism, Auschwitz

FOR FANS OF: *Hannah Arendt*, *Agnes of God*, and *The Nun’s Story*

# AN AMERICAN TAIL

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10 | NOON | THE GERSHMAN Y | **FAMILY DAY**



**AN AMERICAN TAIL**, the first animated feature presented by Steven Spielberg and directed by former Disney animator Don Bluth, tells the story of Fievel Mousekewitz and his Russian Jewish mouse family’s escape from their homeland in the late 1800s. Boarding a boat headed for America to evade the Czarist rule of the Russian cats, Fievel gets separated from his mom and dad. To make matters worse, upon arriving in New York City, Fievel learns to his horror that there are cats in America, too! Forced to navigate the streets of New York all alone, Fievel meets his share of friendly and hostile mice, and even befriends one of the dreaded cats. Will little Fievel Mousekewitz save the day and reunite with his family? This must-see film, perfect for kids ages 4 and up, is a delightful entrée to family discussions about grandparents and great-grandparents who immigrated to America from Eastern Europe over a century ago.

DIRECTOR: Don Bluth  
GENRE: Animation | comedy  
COUNTRY: USA  
YEAR: 1986  
RUNNING TIME: 80 min  
LANGUAGE: English

SPECIAL GUEST: Some of Fievel’s friends will be on hand to greet moviegoers prior to the film.

SUBJECTS: Immigration, friendship, family, New York City, America, Russia

Special treat for patrons of **AN AMERICAN TAIL** and **IGOR AND THE CRANES’ JOURNEY**: Ice Cream Bar 2 - 2:45 PM

# IGOR AND THE CRANES’ JOURNEY

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10 | 3 PM | INTERNATIONAL HOUSE | **FAMILY DAY**



DIRECTOR: Evgeny Ruman  
GENRE: Drama  
COUNTRIES: Israel | Poland | Germany  
YEAR: 2012  
RUNNING TIME: 90 min  
LANGUAGE: Russian | Polish | Hebrew with English subtitles

SPECIAL GUESTS: Humans and fine-feathered friends from the Academy of Natural Sciences at Drexel.

SUBJECTS: Immigration, divorce, familial relations, fitting in, friendship, perseverance, ornithology, cranes

FOR FANS OF: *Big Fish* and *Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close*

COMMUNITY PARTNER: The Academy of Natural Sciences at Drexel

**PHILADELPHIA PREMIERE** Since his parents’ divorce, 11-year-old Igor cherishes his yearly visits to the Russian countryside to see his dad, Peter, a world-renowned crane specialist. On an expedition with his dad, Igor witnesses the birth of hatchling Karl, and vows to watch over him. But when Igor’s mom, a choral conductor, decides to take a new job and immigrate to Israel, Igor is forced to leave his dad, his friends, and his beloved Karl behind. Feeling lost and needing his dad more than ever, Igor begins to track his father’s whereabouts through his father’s video blog on the migration patterns of a family of cranes flying from Russia to Africa. In an attempt to draw his father closer and earn acceptance from his classmates, Igor comes up with an extraordinary plan to build a watering hole for Karl and the cranes’ stopover in Israel. With exquisite cinematography and sensitive script, **IGOR AND THE CRANES’ JOURNEY** is a perfect film for dreamers ages 10 and up.

# THE DANDELIONS

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10 | 7 PM | HIWAY THEATER

**PHILADELPHIA PREMIERE** Nine-year-old Rachel is having a difficult time growing up in the Gladstein household. Caught between the smothering love of her Tunisian Jewish mother, her Holocaust-obsessed Father, and her ailing grandmother with whom she is forced to share a bedroom, it’s no wonder Rachel has to see a therapist. Only when Rachel is befriended by Valerie, a wild and precocious classmate, does she begin to find joy in life. If things aren’t crazy enough, Rachel’s father, Michel, begins to fall for her new companion’s single mother. A cast of eccentric characters portrayed brilliantly by France’s top actors will have you laughing and crying in this dark coming-of-age French dramedy.

DIRECTOR: Carine Tardieu  
GENRE: Family drama | Dark comedy  
COUNTRY: France  
YEAR: 2012  
RUNNING TIME: 90 min  
LANGUAGE: French with English subtitles

SPECIAL GUEST: TBA

SUBJECTS: Mother and daughter relationships, marriage, friendship, death, Jewish contemporary life in France

FOR FANS OF: *Amélie*, *Coraline*, and *Ghost World*



# AFTERMATH

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 11 | 7 PM | INTERNATIONAL HOUSE | **CAMPUS NIGHT**

**PHILADELPHIA PREMIERE** Based on true events from a dark moment in Poland’s history, **AFTERMATH** is considered one of the most controversial and important films ever made in Poland. A year after its initial release, this film from award-winning director Wladyslaw Pasikowski is still causing shockwaves and soul-searching throughout Poland.

The provocative thriller is set in motion when Franek returns from the United States to his native village in Poland. There he discovers that his brother Józek is hated by his fellow Catholic villagers. The danger escalates through broken windows, anonymous threats and police harassment. When Józek is attacked and beaten senseless for removing old Jewish tombstones that were used to pave the village roads, he finally reveals the reasons for the town’s hostility. What Franek discovers next is an ominous and terrifying secret that has claimed countless lives and scarred his village for almost half a century.



DIRECTOR: Wladyslaw Pasikowski  
GENRE: Thriller | Drama  
COUNTRIES: Poland | Netherlands | Russia | Slovakia  
YEAR: 2012  
RUNNING TIME: 90 min  
LANGUAGE: Polish with English subtitles

SPECIAL EVENT: Panel Discussion  
MODERATOR: Professor Elliot Ratzman  
PANELISTS: Professor Robert Cohn, Professor Michael Steinlauf, and Documentary Filmmaker Slawomir Grunberg

SUBJECTS: Polish history, anti-Semitism in Poland

FOR FANS OF: *City of God*, *Rwanda*, and *In Darkness*

# ONE DAY AFTER PEACE

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 12 | 7 PM | DREXEL UNIVERSITY’S MITCHELL AUDITORIUM

DIRECTOR: Erez Laufer | Miri Laufer  
GENRE: Documentary  
COUNTRIES: South Africa | Israel  
YEAR: 2012  
RUNNING TIME: 86 min  
LANGUAGE: Hebrew | English with English subtitles

SPECIAL GUEST: Ranen Omer-Sherman  
SPECIAL EVENT: Post-film reception

SUBJECTS: Israeli-Palestinian relations, war, South African history, apartheid, reparations, truth, forgiveness, peace relations

COMMUNITY PARTNERS: Drexel University, College of Arts and Sciences; Hillel at Drexel University; Drexel Center for Interdisciplinary Programs



**PHILADELPHIA PREMIERE** A deeply moving chronicle of understanding, forgiveness, and empathy, **ONE DAY AFTER PEACE** has won numerous prizes at film festivals around the world and was nominated for Best Documentary at the Israeli Academy Awards. It follows the emotional journey of Robi Damelin, a South African-born Israeli, who lost her younger son David to a Palestinian sniper’s bullet while he was serving as a sentry in the West Bank. At first, Robi wants to speak with her son’s killer, who is now serving time in an Israeli prison. He refuses, because her son was part of the occupying army denying his people their sovereignty. Undeterred, Robi decides to return to South Africa to see how the country she came from dealt with its own issues of forgiveness and reconciliation after decades of enmity. Through the post-apartheid Truth and Reconciliation Committee (TRC), Robi meets with perpetrators from both sides of the conflict and tries to understand the motivations that brought them to confront their victims and publicly declare their crimes. Robi’s thought-provoking story leads from a place of deep personal pain to a belief that a better future is possible.

# MY AWKWARD SEXUAL ADVENTURE

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13 | 7 PM | RITZ FIVE | **DATE NIGHT**



**PHILADELPHIA PREMIERE** Winner of the People’s Choice Award at the Calgary International Film Festival, **MY AWKWARD SEXUAL ADVENTURE** is shot with squirm-inducing hilarity and worldly wisdom. Jordan, a sweet but naïve Jewish accountant, is head-over-heels in love with his girlfriend Rachel. But when he finally works up the nerve to pop the question, Rachel admits she finds him sexually boring and needs a break. Entirely demoralized, Jordan ends up at a strip club where he meets Julia, a spreadsheet-challenged exotic dancer (and amateur chef) who begins to teach Jordan the art of seduction in exchange for some help with her finances. Will this arrangement bring Jordan’s estranged girlfriend back to her senses? One part *American Pie* and two parts Woody Allen, this laugh-out-loud Canadian romp is perfect for date night!

DIRECTOR: Sean Garrity  
GENRE: Raunchy sex comedy  
COUNTRY: Canada  
YEAR: 2012  
RUNNING TIME: 98 min  
LANGUAGE: English

SPECIAL GUEST: Director Sean Garrity in conversation with entertainment columnist Whitney Ullman  
SPECIAL EVENT: Followed by Q & A with Director Sean Garrity and After-Party at location TBA

SUBJECTS: Sex, sexual exploration, romance, relationships, comedy

FOR FANS OF: *The Forty-Year-Old Virgin*, *American Pie*, and *Everthing You Always Wanted to Know About Sex*

COMMUNITY PARTNERS: Yound Friends of NMAJH

# ORCHESTRA OF EXILES

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14 | 11 AM | GERSHMAN Y | **LUNCH PROGRAM**

**PHILADELPHIA PREMIERE** One Polish violinist. 70 Jewish musicians. Together, they waged a four-year struggle, fighting the Nazis with the only weapon they had: music. From Academy Award-nominated director Josh Aronson, **ORCHESTRA OF EXILES** reveals the dramatic story of Bronislaw Huberman, the celebrated Polish violinist who used his vision and resourcefulness to rescue some of the world’s greatest musicians from Nazi Germany. Spiriting Jewish musicians away under the shadow of the Nazis, and in spite of resistance from Zionist officials, Huberman succeeded in creating one of the world’s greatest orchestras—the future Israeli Philharmonic. This exhilarating documentary is a suspenseful tale of escape accompanied by an excellent musical score. NPR raved, “**ORCHESTRA OF EXILES** will interest anyone who’s concerned with European Jewry or classical music in the first half of the 20th century.”



DIRECTOR: Josh Aronson  
GENRE: Documentary  
COUNTRY: USA  
YEAR: 2012  
RUNNING TIME: 85 min  
LANGUAGE: English

SPECIAL GUESTS: Dorit Straus in conversation with Author/Journalist Carol Saline  
SPECIAL EVENT: Post-film discussion and box lunch

SUBJECTS: WWII, music history, Israeli history

# UPSTARTS: AN EVENING OF AWARD-WINNING JEWISH SHORTS

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14 | 7 PM | GERSHMAN Y | **HOSTED BY SHARON PINKENSON**



## WELCOME & OUR CONDOLENCES

It’s 1991. Gera and Ola have just emigrated from Russia to Israel with their son and aunt in tow. But when their aunt dies on the plane ride over, the couple find themselves trying to figure out how to overcome Israeli bureaucracy and bury their aunt. Based on director Leon Prudovsky’s own immigration traumas, this absurdist short radiates with dark hilarity.

DIRECTOR: Leon Prudovsky  
GENRE: Dark comedy | mockumentary | short  
COUNTRY: Israel  
YEAR: 2012  
RUNNING TIME: 26 min  
LANGUAGE: Russian and Hebrew with English subtitles

SUBJECTS: Immigration, bureaucracy, death, Israel, Russia

FOR FANS OF: *Everything is Illuminated* and *Little Miss Sunshine*



## NOT YOUR TIME

Sound editor and frustrated screenwriter Sid Rosenthal (played by *Seinfeld* star Jason Alexander) has a brilliant idea for a new musical film. But when no one will produce the work, Sid tells Hollywood execs that he is going to kill himself—which they believe is the best “pitch” they’ve heard in a long time.

DIRECTOR: Jay Kamen  
GENRE: Black comedy | short  
COUNTRY: USA  
YEAR: 2010  
RUNNING TIME: 25 min  
LANGUAGE: English

SUBJECTS: Film, scriptwriting, theater, dance, entertainment

FOR FANS OF: *Chicago* and *Barton Fink*



## AYA

Waiting at the airport to pick someone up, Aya finds herself unexpectedly playing chauffeur to Danish musician, Mr. Overby, who thinks Aya is his driver. In this variation on the themes of human longing and desire for connection, Aya and Overby bond in surprising ways during their drive from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. Winner of Best Short Feature at the Israeli Oscars.

DIRECTOR: Mihal Brezis | Oded Binnun  
GENRE: Drama | short  
COUNTRIES: France | Israel  
YEAR: 2012  
RUNNING TIME: 40 min  
LANGUAGE: Hebrew with English subtitles

SUBJECTS: Loneliness, connection, humanity, sexual tension

FOR FANS OF: *Lost in Translation*

# BETHLEHEM

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16 | 8 PM | THE GERSHMAN Y

CLOSING NIGHT

TOP PRIZE **VENICE FILM FESTIVAL** BEST FILM  
**HAIFA FILM FESTIVAL** BEST FILM, BEST DIRECTOR,  
BEST ACTOR, BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR  
BEST EDITING, BEST CASTING **ISRAELI OSCARS**



The Philadelphia Jewish Film Festival is honored to present **BETHLEHEM**, Israel's Official Oscar Entry into the American Academy Awards, as its Closing Night Film. Directed by Israel's Yuval Adler and co-written by Adler and Arab journalist Ali Waked, **BETHLEHEM** won the FEODORA award at the Venice Film Festival, best film at the Haifa International Film Festival, and six Ophir Awards (Israeli Oscars) for Best Film, Best Director, Best Actor, Best Supporting Actor, Best Editing, and Best Casting. The film was also an Official Selection of the Toronto International Film Festival and Telluride.

BETHLEHEM centers on the relationship between Sanfur, a 17-year-old native of Bethlehem, and Razi, an officer in the Shin Bet (the military intelligence wing of the Israeli army). Sanfur is the younger brother of Ibrahim, a Palestinian militant. His loyalties to both his brother and Razi are compromised when a chain of unfortunate events forces him to choose sides, once and for all.

Haifa International Film Festival judges wrote of their award winner: "The movie gripped us from the first scene ...and is still with us hours and days after viewing it."

# LIGHTS. CAMERA. INTERACTION!

MEET A FEW OF OUR SPECIAL GUESTS



**MICHAEL BERENBAUM**, an award-winning journalist, scholar, museum specialist, film producer, and prolific author, is lauded on the world stage for his ability to make the lessons of the Holocaust relevant and meaningful for new generations.

Berenbaum oversaw the creation of the Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington D.C. as its Project Director and was the historical consultant for the Shoah Foundation's Oscar-winning documentary THE LAST DAYS.



**ROBERT L. COHN**, professor at Lafayette College, is a specialist in Polish Jewish relations. He has taught in Poland as part of an American Jewish committee program. His recent research

focuses on efforts to renew Jewish life in Poland after the Holocaust and the ways in which the remnants of Jewish material culture in Poland have been cultivated to construct Jewish memory in the last two decades.



Science journalist **JOSHUA FOER** is the author of the international bestseller *Moonwalking with Einstein*, which has been translated into 33 languages. He is the co-founder of *Atlas Obscura*, *Sukkah City*, and the *Sefaria Project*.



**KATIE HALPER**, the product of a mixed Bronxian-Queensian marriage, was raised on the mean streets of Manhattan's Upper West Side. Today, you can find this filmmaker, comedian, and writer at KatieHalper.com, CommieCamp.com, and @kthalps on Twitter. COMMIE CAMP is Halper's first feature documentary.



**YARIV HOROWITZ** began his career at 18, directing music videos and commercials, then moving on to TV, music documentaries, and now feature films. In addition to ROCK

THE CASBAH, Yariv's latest project is a comedy called THE BIGGER, BETTER DEAL, a semi-autobiographical exploration of his own experience as a director of commercials.



**JASON HUTT** who made his first short film SAUSAGE HERE while studying Economics and Film at Harvard, is now the director of three critically acclaimed documentaries: BREEZEWOOD, PENNSYLVANIA; ORTHODOX STANCE; and SUKKAH CITY.



**ALEX KARPOVSKY**, best known for his role as Ray Ploshansky on HBO's GIRLS, is also an award-winning director, writer, and editor. His debut feature, THE HOLE STORY, earned him a slot in

Filmmaker Magazine's 25 new faces of independent film. His subsequent films include WOODPECKER (SXSW Film Festival, 2008), TRUST US, THIS IS ALL MADE UP (SXSW Film Festival, 2009), RUBBERNECK (Tribeca Film Festival, 2012), and RED FLAG (LA Film Festival, 2012), the latter two of which were released as a double feature in New York City's Lincoln Center Theater in the same week. You can catch Alex in the role of Marty Green in the upcoming Coen Brothers film, INSIDE LLEWYN DAVIS.



**PAMELA KATZ** is a screenwriter and novelist with a special interest in historical and biographical subjects. She co-wrote Margarethe von Trotta's film ROSENSTRASSE (2003), based

on a true story of resistance to the Third Reich; THE OTHER WOMAN (2005) about Stasi Romeos in former East Germany; and REMEMBRANCE (2011), based on a true story about a pair of lovers who escape Auschwitz only to lose each other in postwar Poland. HANNAH ARENDT is Katz's third project with von Trotta.



**RANEN OMER-SHERMAN** is a founder of a desert kibbutz and is currently Professor of English and Jewish Studies at the University of Miami. His four books include *Diaspora and Zionism in Jewish American Literature*;

*Israel in Exile: Jewish Writing and the Desert*; and the co-edited volumes, *The Jewish Graphic Novel: Critical Approaches and Narratives of Dissent: War in Contemporary Israeli Arts and Culture*.



**SHARON PINKENSON** has served as the Executive Director of the Greater Philadelphia Film Office for 20 years during the terms of three mayors and five governors. She is responsible for all aspects of the office, founded in 1985.

Prior to her appointment, Ms. Pinkenson worked as a costume designer and a wardrobe stylist in the film industry.



**JENNIFER PREDIGER** is a director and actor living in New York City. She has a co-starring role as love interest and obsessed fan in the Gotham Award-nominated comedy RED FLAG. She is currently in post-production for TROUBLE

DOLLS, a feature she co-directed and starred in alongside collaborator Jess Weixler with Megan Mullally, Will Forte, and Jeffrey Tambor.



**ELLIOT RATZMAN** is Assistant Professor of Religion and Jewish Studies at Temple University where he teaches courses on secular Judaism, Jews and race, utopian politics and modern Jewish thought. He has attended

many conferences on the works of Hannah Arendt including the first conference of her work in Jerusalem in 1997.



**INGA SAFFRON**, the architecture critic for the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, has been writing about urban design issues for over a decade. She has reviewed some of the most memorable new projects of the era—including Gehry's Disney Hall, Koolhaas' Seattle Library, and New York's High Line. Inga became a design critic after working for many years as a news reporter, and she melds a critic's sensibility with a reporter's ability to ferret out a story. She has been a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize three times since 2004, and received the Gene Burd Urban Journalism Award in 2010.



**CAROL SALINE** is a journalist, broadcaster, author and popular public speaker. She has written three books: *Dr. Snow: How the FBI Nailed an Ivy League Coke King*, *Straight Talk: How to Get Closer to Others by Saying What You Really Mean*, and *A Guide to Good Health*. In addition she has co-authored four photo-essay books with photographer Sharon J. Wohlmuth. Their most popular, *Sisters*, spent 63 weeks on the *New York Times* bestseller list and sold over one million copies.



**MICHAEL C. STEINLAUF** is an Associate Professor of History at Gratz College. Steinlauf teaches Jewish history and culture in Eastern Europe and Polish Jewish relations. His writings, which focus on Jewish popular culture in Poland, have been translated into Polish, Hebrew, German and Italian. He is currently the senior historical advisor and member of the planning committee of the Museum of the History of Polish Jews, soon to open in Warsaw.



**WHITNEY ULLMAN** is an entertainment columnist, on-air personality, and expert networker who formed www.gotowhitney.com to serve as a platform for businesses in need of various entertainment services including: video production, model placement, public relations services and more.



**LILIANE WEISSBERG** is Christopher H. Browne Distinguished Professor in Arts and Sciences and Professor of German and Comparative Literature at the University of Pennsylvania. Weissberg's interests focus on late eighteenth-century to early twentieth-century German literature and philosophy. Among her more recent books are a critical edition of Hannah Arendt's *Rahel Varnhagen: The Life of a Jewess* (1997).