VIRTUAL FILMS & CONCERTS
Looking to access the best of international Jewish and Israeli cinema without leaving the comfort and safety of home? Stream over 20 films and 6 musical performances—all available to access anytime between May 23-30.

OUTDOOR EVENTS
Want to enjoy a movie under the stars? Dance to Jewish music while being basked in sunlight? Join JxJ for a series of drive-in screenings and outdoor concerts throughout the festival!
## JxJ 2021 LIVE FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

This schedule lists all drive-in, outdoor, or live virtual events. More virtual screenings and concerts are available on-demand from May 23-30 at JxJDC.ORG

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Sunday, May 23</th>
<th>Monday, May 24</th>
<th>Tuesday, May 25</th>
<th>Wednesday, May 26</th>
<th>Thursday, May 27</th>
<th>Friday, May 28</th>
<th>Saturday, May 29</th>
<th>Sunday, May 30</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11:00 AM</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:00 PM</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:00 PM</td>
<td>Bender JCC Outdoor Concert Orchester Praževica</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:00 PM</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:00 PM</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:00 PM</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:00 PM</td>
<td>Lincoln Park Outdoor Concert Crush Funk Brass Band</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:00 PM</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:30 PM</td>
<td>Adas Israel, DC Drive-in Concert Miriam Isaacs And Vladimir Fridman</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:00 PM</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:30 PM</td>
<td>DC Party Box Drive-in Concert + Film Trio Sefardi</td>
<td>Union Market Drive In Screening Adventures Of A Mathematician</td>
<td>Union Market Drive In Screening Tango Shalom</td>
<td>DC Party Box Drive-in Screening On Broadway</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:00 PM</td>
<td>Bender JCC Outdoor Screening Forgiveness</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Bender JCC Outdoor Screening Ronnie's</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00 PM</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Bender JCC Outdoor Screening Kiss Me Kosher</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**LEGEND:**
- Outdoor and Drive-in Concerts
- Drive-in Screening
OUTDOOR EVENTS

FORGIVENESS
Dir. Guy Amir and Hanan Savyon | 104 min
Narrative | Israel | 2019
Hebrew w/ English Subtitles

Nissan and Shaul (Guy Amir and Hanan Savyon, Maktub), are bumbling thieves. After a heist pathetically and hilariously goes awry, Nissan flees abroad and Shaul is sent to prison. When Shaul is released, just before Yom Kippur, he finds that Nissan has become Hasidic and is waiting for him—he wants to be Shaul to forgive him before the holiday.

Meanwhile, Shaul has to regain the trust of his daughter and wife (Noa Koler, The Wedding Plan). But when the two repentant criminals find themselves in need of money, their adventures start all over again.

SUNDAY, MAY 23, 8:00PM | BENDER JCC

ADVENTURES OF A MATHEMATICIAN
Dir. Thor Klein | 102 min
Narrative | Germany, Poland, UK | 2020
English and Polish w/English subtitles

Based on Stanislaw Ulam's autobiography Adventures of a Mathematician.

Cambridge, USA, 1942. Stan Ulam is a 30-year-old talented Polish Jewish mathematician, a good-looking bon vivant who is quick with a joke. When he loses his fellowship at Harvard, the Hungarian genius Johnny von Neumann comes to the rescue with a mysterious job offer, which whisks him away to Los Alamos.

Surrounded by a bevy of other young and eccentric immigrant scientists, Stan begins top-secret work on a nuclear weapon, all while scheming of how to rescue his sister for Nazi-occupied Poland.

TUESDAY, MAY 25, 7:30PM | UNION MARKET

TANGO SHALOM
Dir. Gabriel Bologna | 115 min
Narrative | USA | 2020

Moshe Yehuda, a Hasidic Rabbi and amateur Hora dancer, enters a televised tango competition to save his Hebrew school from bankruptcy. There is only one problem: he's orthodox and is not allowed to touch a woman!

At odds with his wife and five kids, the Grand Rabbi and Moshe’s entire Hasidic community in Crown Heights, Brooklyn, Moshe is forced to ask a Catholic priest, a Muslim imam, and a Sikh holy man for advice. Together, they hash out a plan to help Moshe dance in the tango contest “without sacrificing his sacred beliefs”...setting in motion a fun, passionate dance movie.

Heart-pumping and heartwarming, Tango Shalom tests the bonds of family and community, and the bounds of tolerance and faith. Starring Lainie Kazan, Renee Taylor and Joseph Bologna.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 26, 7:30PM | UNION MARKET
**KISS ME KOSHER**

Dir. Shirel Peleg | 101 min
Narrative | Germany, Israel | 2019
English, German, Hebrew and Arabic w/English subtitles

Sparks fly when two families from wildly different cultural backgrounds collide to plan a same-sex wedding in this fun-filled screwball romantic comedy.

After a string of brief relationships, Shira has finally found real love and gets engaged to Maria, a German who has uprooted her life with a move to Tel Aviv. The two families awkwardly try to overcome their cultural and religious differences, with the exception of Shira’s headstrong and fiercely independent grandmother, Berta, who strongly disapproves of any marriage between Germans and Jews.

Berta will go to any length to break-up the happy couple, until her own love life gets complicated after she secretly starts seeing a Palestinian man. As Shira’s younger brother eagerly documents the family chaos for a school video project, Shira and Maria discover the road to happiness is filled with unexpected, but hilarious complications.

*Co-Sponsored by the Goethe-Institut, Washington DC*

---

**ON BROADWAY**

Dir. Oren Jacoby | 82 min
Documentary | USA | 2020

Missing the breathtaking experience of the Broadway stage? It’ll be a few months still...but we have the next best thing!

For anyone who loves theater, this contemporary history of Broadway is a joy, packed with legendary stars and performances. Key players—Helen Mirren, Christine Baranski, August Wilson, James Corden, Alec Baldwin, John Lithgow, Viola Davis, Hugh Jackman and Ian McKellen—take us behind the scenes of Broadway’s most groundbreaking shows, from *A Chorus Line* to *Hamilton*.

Performances form Lin Manuel Miranda, Patti Lupone, Bernadette Peters, James Earl Jones and Mandy Patinkin lead the way on a hurly burly ride through Times Square, once again the main street of American show business in *On Broadway*, directed by Academy-Award nominee Oren Jacoby.

---

**RONNIE’S**

Dir. Oliver Murray | 102 min
Documentary | United Kingdom | 2019

A chronicle of the life of saxophonist Ronnie Scott, from poor, Jewish kid growing up in 1940s East End, London, to the owner of the legendary night club, Ronnie’s, one of the most famous jazz clubs in the world.

Glorious clips from performances by jazz greats spanning decades—Ella Fitzgerald, Dizzy Gillespie, Jimi Hendrix, Oscar Peterson, Nina Simone, Sarah Vaughn, Van Morrison, Chet Baker, Sonny Rollins and many more—bring to life this story of a charming, incredibly talented man who secretly wrestled with his own inner demons.

Ronnie’s is a joyous, visually stunning film that seeps through your pores, melts into your bloodstream, and will propel you back to a bygone era that is nothing short of an exhilarating and nostalgic ride.

**SATURDAY, MAY 29, 8:00PM | BENDER JCC**

---

**RONNIE’S**

Dir. Oliver Murray | 102 min
Documentary | United Kingdom | 2019

A chronicle of the life of saxophonist Ronnie Scott, from poor, Jewish kid growing up in 1940s East End, London, to the owner of the legendary night club, Ronnie’s, one of the most famous jazz clubs in the world.

Glorious clips from performances by jazz greats spanning decades—Ella Fitzgerald, Dizzy Gillespie, Jimi Hendrix, Oscar Peterson, Nina Simone, Sarah Vaughn, Van Morrison, Chet Baker, Sonny Rollins and many more—bring to life this story of a charming, incredibly talented man who secretly wrestled with his own inner demons.

Ronnie’s is a joyous, visually stunning film that seeps through your pores, melts into your bloodstream, and will propel you back to a bygone era that is nothing short of an exhilarating and nostalgic ride.

**SATURDAY, MAY 29, 8:00PM | BENDER JCC**

---

**THURSDAY, MAY 27, 7:30PM | DC PARTY BOX**

**Ronnie’s**

Dir. Oliver Murray | 102 min
Documentary | United Kingdom | 2019

A chronicle of the life of saxophonist Ronnie Scott, from poor, Jewish kid growing up in 1940s East End, London, to the owner of the legendary night club, Ronnie’s, one of the most famous jazz clubs in the world.

Glorious clips from performances by jazz greats spanning decades—Ella Fitzgerald, Dizzy Gillespie, Jimi Hendrix, Oscar Peterson, Nina Simone, Sarah Vaughn, Van Morrison, Chet Baker, Sonny Rollins and many more—bring to life this story of a charming, incredibly talented man who secretly wrestled with his own inner demons.

Ronnie’s is a joyous, visually stunning film that seeps through your pores, melts into your bloodstream, and will propel you back to a bygone era that is nothing short of an exhilarating and nostalgic ride.

**SATURDAY, MAY 29, 8:00PM | BENDER JCC**

---

**SUNDAY, MAY 30, 8:00PM | BENDER JCC**
ORCHESTER PRAŽEVICA

High energy dance music drawing on the traditions of Eastern European Czardas, Klezmer, and Gypsy Swing, but also widely influenced by jazz and blues.

Under the direction of Slovak born-and-raised guitarist and singer Tomáš Drgoň Orchester Praževica delivers honest, authentic and entertaining mix of folklore, jazz, and dance music suitable for everything from upscale clubs to dives, jazz festivals to mosh pits, arts receptions to underground galleries.

Orchester Praževica has performed at several prestigious stages including the Atlas Performing Arts Center in Washington DC, Patterson Theater in Baltimore, The Drom in NYC, and shared stage with the Hungarian Gypsy folk supergroup Parno Graszt, the Romanian Gypsy brass legends Fanfare Ciocarlia, Boban and Marko Markovic Orchestra, and other greats on the “not so mainstream” music scene.

SUNDAY, MAY 23, 1:00 PM | BENDER JCC

CRUSH FUNK BRASS BAND WITH SETH KIBEL

The Crush Funk Brass Band is a brilliant, innovative group of musicians hailing from Washington DC, comprised of alums from The University of The District of Columbia, Bowie State University, and Howard University.

Throughout the JxJ Festival, The Crush Funk Brass Band will be mixing Klezmer and other Jewish music into their repertoire and partnering with local Klezmer superstar Seth Kibel. Catch them around town doing free shows in DC parks, and then join us for their Festival finale (ticketed concert) at the Bender JCC of Greater Washington on the last day of the Festival.

Influenced by all genres of music, the band’s style is unique, embodying the brass tones of New Orleans, with an Urban Capital City modern pop-fun(k) twist. The mission of the band is simple: “To bring life to the city through music where least expected, to enrich the lives of others and to continue growing and striving for high musical excellence.”

WEDNESDAY, MAY 26, 5:00PM | LINCOLN PARK
SATURDAY, MAY 29, 1:00PM | MERIDIAN HILL PARK
SUNDAY, MAY 30, 1:00PM | BENDER JCC

TRIO SEFARDI PRESENTS: LA NONA KANTA: THE REMARKABLE LIFE OF FLORY JAGODA

La Nona Kanta is a tale of survival and courage with particular relevance in today’s turbulent world. The program is a celebration of the life and work of Flory Altarac Jagoda, the National Heritage Award-winning, Borsian-born Sephardic singer and composer, with live music by Susan Gaeta, Tina Chancey and Howard Bass of the ensemble Trio Sephardi.

In filmed interviews, Flory tells the true story of how music helped her escape from Nazi-occupied Yugoslavia when she was a teenager; how she made a life in the United States; and how she turned the tragic fate of her family and Balkan Sephardic culture into a celebration of five centuries of faith and tradition, giving meaning to the rest of her life, and delighting audiences worldwide.

Presented in collaboration with the National Institute for Holocaust Documentation at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

THURSDAY, MAY 27, 7:30PM | DC PARTY BOX
MIRIAM ISAACS AND VLADIMIR FRIDMAN: My Father’s Memoir of WWII in the USSR: Stories Set To Song

Guitarist and singer Vladimir Fridman and scholar Miriam Isaacs trace the wartime journeys of Miriam’s father, Israel. A Polish Jew who left wife and child in Krakow, he fled across the vast expanse of the USSR all the way to Central Asia. Late in the war he fought with the Soviet Army, helped liberate Hungary, and smuggled survivors out post-war Poland. Drawing from his memoirs, Isaacs will read poems and stories she has translated from Yiddish. Fridman will perform songs in Yiddish and Russian from this historical period.

Ironically, when the Russians sent Jews into Central Asia during World War II, what seemed like punishment turned out to save their lives. Yes, they suffered hunger, illness, loneliness, the rule of Stalin, and hard labor. But they were at least beyond the reach of the Germans. In this lonely place, they turned to art, song and literature for comfort, solace and courage. This history is explored through the emotional lives of those who lived through those times.

THURSDAY, MAY 27, 6:30PM
ADAS ISRAEL CONGREGATION

MIRIAM ISAACS AND VLADIMIR FRIDMAN: Yiddish Theatrical Music Exploration

Get ready to laugh, grab a handkerchief to cry, and beware of the Dybbuk!

Yiddishist and scholar Miriam Isaacs and guitarist and singer Vladimir Fridman present a program of highlights from the music of Yiddish theater. Combing these joyous songs and plaintive melodies with stories of the Yiddish stage, the duo transport us from Romania to Poland and New York…and even, in the modern day, to the realm of virtual reality!

SUNDAY, MAY 30, 4:00 PM BENDER JCC

THE AUSCHWITZ REPORT

Dir. Peter Bebjak | 94 min
Narrative | Slovakia | 2020
Slovak, German, Polish, Czech w/ English Subtitles
Slovakia’s official entry to the 2021 Academy Awards

This is the true story of Freddy and Walter—two young Slovak Jews, who were deported to Auschwitz in 1942. On 10 April 1944, after meticulous planning and with the help and the resilience of their inmates, they manage to escape. While the inmates, they had left behind, courageously stand their ground against the Nazi officers, the two men are driven on by the hope that their evidence could save lives. Emaciated and hurt, they make their way through the mountains back to Slovakia. With the help of chance encounters, they finally manage to cross the border and meet the resistance and The Red Cross. They compile a detailed report about the systematic genocide at the camp. However, with Nazi propaganda and international liaisons still in place, their account seems to be too harrowing to believe.
A COMMON GOAL
Dir. Shuki Guzik | 52 min
Documentary | Israel | 2020
Hebrew w/ English Subtitles

Almost half the players on the Israeli National Soccer Team are Muslim, including the captain. The team’s diverse group of players causes controversy, especially during an important European tournament, most of it provoked by racist fans and the media. The players have their loyalty questioned by all sides while trying to guide Israel’s national team through the year’s biggest international challenge.

A Common Goal will be featured in our keynote presentation, 21%: The Lives of Arab Citizens of Israel.

IRMI
Dir. Veronica Selver and Susan Fanshel | 70 min
Documentary | USA | 2020

In 1906, Irmi Selver was born into a comfortable Jewish family in Chemnitz, Germany, where she grew up, married and began her own family. Nothing prepared her for the upheavals and tragedy that were in store for her, or for the many times she would have to start her life over on unfamiliar ground.

Using Irmi’s own memoir—beautifully read by the actress Hanna Schygulla and with a richly emotional score by composer, Todd Boekelheide, IRMI takes us on her unique journey. It is a portrait of a woman whose strength, resilience and perhaps most stunningly, whose joie de vivre could not be vanquished even in the face of unimaginable loss.

“Resolutely life-affirming and unexpectedly universal.” -Michael Fox, KQED Arts

A KADDISH FOR BERNIE MADOFF
Dir. Alicia J. Rose | 75 min
Narrative | USA | 2020

A mystical meta-musical about the greatest financial fraud in history. A hybrid of memoir docudrama and narrative fantasy, A Kaddish For Bernie Madoff tells the story of Madoff and the system that allowed him to function for decades through the eyes of musician/poet Alicia Jo Rabins, who watches the financial crash from her 9th floor studio in an abandoned office building on Wall Street.

Fueled by her growing obsession, real-life interviews transform into music videos, ancient spiritual texts become fevered fantasies of synchronized swimming, and a vivid, vulnerable work of art is born from the unique perspective of an artist watching the global financial collapse up close.

The film project grew out of a theater show which had its first touring performance at the Washington Jewish Music Festival in 2013.

“The film by Alicia Jo Rabins and Alicia J. Rose may be about the financial crisis of 2008, but its images and themes couldn’t feel more current.” -Chloe Sarbib, Alma
LOVE IT WAS NOT
Dir. Maya Sarfaty | 82 min
Narrative | Israel, Austria | 2020
Hebrew, German and English w/ English Subtitles

The unbelievable (but true) love story between a prisoner and her captor. Flamboyant and full of life, Helena Citron is taken to Auschwitz as a young woman, and soon finds unlikely solace under the tutelage of Franz Wunsch, a high-ranking SS officer who falls in love with her and her magnetic singing voice. Risking a certain execution if caught, their forbidden relationship went on until her miraculous liberation.

But when a letter arrives from Wunsch’s wife, thirty years later, begging Helena to testify on Wunsch’s behalf, she’s faced with an impossible decision: will she help the man who brutalized so many lives, but saved hers, along with some of the people closest to her?

Directed by Maya Sarfaty and based on her 2016 Student Oscar-winning short film.

“A superbly documented, creatively executed tale...remarkable”—Alissa Simon, Variety

Co-Sponsored by the Austrian Cultural Forum Washington / Embassy of Austria

MAGNIFICENT BEAST
Dir. Tess Gerritsen and Josh Gerritsen | 75 min
Documentary | USA | 2020

Why is pork a forbidden food for Jews and Muslims? In a search for the historical roots of the pig taboo, filmmakers Tess Gerritsen and Josh Gerritsen travel around the world interviewing archaeologists, religious scholars, hunters and pet pig owners.

Their journey reveals the many ways this intelligent and complex animal has found its way into religious scripture, onto our dinner tables, and even into our homes.

MARRY ME HOWEVER
Dir. Mordechai Vardi | 63 min
Documentary | Israel | 2020
Hebrew w/English subtitles

The memorable, award-winning Israeli documentary, Marry Me However shines a light on LGBT men and women who, for religious reasons, decided to marry against their own sexual orientation.

They married in order to be accepted into their families and religious communities. Some shared their secret with their partners before marriage, some kept it hidden, and some lied even to themselves.

The individuals in the documentary experience a journey of self-acceptance and social activism, as they try to affect a change in their religious environments. The film also follows the women who married and divorced gay partners, as well as rabbis and psychologists who seek a solution to the tension between religious law and sexual orientation.

Co-Sponsored by ESHEL
POWDER KEG
Dir. Ole Christian Madsen | 106 min
Narrative | Denmark | 2020
Danish w/English Subtitles

Based on true events. In an icy cold Europe, the lives of four strangers intersect tragically in this dramatization of the February 2015 terrorist attacks that rocked Copenhagen. With Europe on edge following Al-Qaeda violence in France, a radicalized gunman reigns a night of terror, targeting a cultural center and synagogue.

With gathering dread, the hours prior to the attack are told through the perpetrator’s eyes, and two victims—a Danish filmmaker and a Jewish security officer. Starring Game of Thrones’ Nikolaj Coster-Waldau.

RAYMONDE EL BIDAOUIA
Dir. Yael Abecassis | 77min
Documentary | Israel | 2020
Hebrew, French and Arabic w/English subtitles

Armed with a camera, internationally acclaimed Israeli actress Yaël Abecassis (Amos Gitai’s Kadosh and Alila, Shlomi Elkabetz’s Seven Days, Prisoners Of War) followed her mother and stepped into a world where she had always been a stranger.

For the first time, they embark on a journey together: from a childhood in the mellah of Casablanca to the dunes of Ashdod and back to Morocco, where her mother became the legendary Raymonde El Bidaouia—a world-famous Moroccan singer.

RUTH—JUSTICE GINSBURG IN HER OWN WORDS
Dir. Freida Lee Mock | 89 min
Documentary | USA

The improbable story of how Ruth Bader Ginsburg, who couldn’t get a job despite graduating first in her law school class in a tie and making Law Review at Harvard and Columbia Law Schools, became an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court.

The film also reveals both the public and private sides of a resilient, resourceful woman who has survived the hostility of the profoundly male universe of government and law to become a revered Justice and icon for gender equality and women’s rights. How did Ginsburg’s work as a litigator for the ACLU’s Women’s Rights Project; as a professor; and as an appellate judge make a difference? Most importantly how did her trailblazing work in the 1970’s arguing landmark gender discrimination cases before the Supreme Court become a turning point for her and the everyday lives of men and women?

Co-Sponsored by the Helen and Milton Covensky Fund
**VIRTUAL EVENTS**

---

**SIN LA HABANA**

*Dir. Kaveh Nabatian | 95 min*  
*Narrative | Canada, Cuba | 2020*  
*Spanish and Farsi w/English subtitles*

A film about power, prophecy, and destiny as seen through the eyes of three people. Leonardo (Yonah Acosta), a ballet dancer, and Sara (Evelyn O’Farrill), an ambitious lawyer, are young black Cubans desperate to leave their country.

They realize that their ticket off the island is for Leonardo to seduce one of the foreign students at the salsa school where he teaches.

When Leonardo meets Nasim (Aki Yaghoubi), a Jewish Canadian-Iranian divorcée, and moves to Montreal, the international love triangle disintegrates into a situation where nobody gets what they wanted, but everyone ends up closer to their true destiny. Written in collaboration with Cuban hip hop producer and academic Pablo Herrera.

---

**SUBLET**

*Dir. Eytan Fox | 90 min*  
*Narrative | English | 2020*  
*Hebrew w/English subtitles*

Opening Film of The Jerusalem Film Festival

A moving drama on missed opportunities and the need to go forward, *Sublet* is the story of a New York Times travel writer who comes to Tel Aviv after suffering a tragedy and finds that the energy of the city and his relationship with a younger man bring him back to life.

Starring Tony-Award winning John Benjamin Hickey (*The Good Wife*) and Niv Nissim.

Eytan Fox has entertained us for three decades with gems like *Yossi & Jagger* and *The Bubble*, and now gifts us this significantly more personal film, a heartfelt and heartwarming ode to gay men and to aging. —Lucy Mukerjee

*“Visually seductive love letter to Tel Aviv and its vibrant street life” – David Rooney, Hollywood Reporter*

---

**THE SIGN PAINTER**

*Dir. Viesturs Kairišs | 90 min*  
*Narrative | Latvia, Czech Republic, Lithuania | 2021*  
*Latvian w/English subtitles*

A tragicomic drama about a young artist battered by conflicting allegiances as a succession of brutal regimes assaults the provincial backwater where he lives and works.

Ansis falls for a Zisla, the Jewish daughter of a wealthy merchant (and budding Communist), but is eventually married a Latvian Christian. His relationship with both women becomes increasingly complicated and dangerous as the Nazis close in.

Ansis may be naïve, but he’s got a simple world-weary wisdom to him too—throughout the turmoil and horror, he channels a deep well of resilience, which proves necessary to withstand the systemic and institutional inhumanity ahead.
WE MADE MATZAH BALLS FOR THE REVOLUTION
Dir. Kellie Welborn | 40 min
Documentary | USA | 2021

World Premiere

In January 1975, the Kosher Kitchen opened with no owner and with no drive for profit. In fact, to show opposition to capitalism, it labeled itself anti-profit and took seriously the slogan, “Food for People, Not for Profit.”

There was no manager, and it was run by a collective of equals, all of whom drew the same small stipend, and met after every dinner for a criticism/self-criticism session. And yes, it was kosher under the supervision of the Orthodox Rabbinate with a full time mashgiach (supervisor). The Kosher Kitchen was more than a restaurant. The collective ran a Meals on Wheels program, a drop-in center for senior citizens, free Saturday night entertainment, hosted biweekly speakers on controversial subjects, and held fundraisers for the United Farmworker’s boycott of non-Union lettuce and grapes.

The restaurant soon became an alternative community center, especially for non-affiliated young people, and began to run into opposition from the establishment.

VER VET BLYBN? (WHO WILL REMAIN?)
Dir. Emily Felder and Christa Whitney | 60 min
Documentary | USA | 2020

Attempting to better understand her grandfather Avrom Sutzkever, Israeli actress Hadas Kalderon travels to Lithuania, using her grandfather’s diary to trace his early life in Vilna and his survival of the Holocaust.

Sutzkever (1913–2010) was an acclaimed Yiddish poet—described by The New York Times as the “greatest poet of the Holocaust.” His verse drew on his youth in Siberia and Vilna, his spiritual and material resistance during World War II, and his post-war life in the State of Israel.

Kalderon, whose native language is Hebrew and must rely on translation of her grandfather’s work, is nevertheless determined to connect with what remains of the poet’s bygone world and confront the personal responsibility of preserving her grandfather’s literary legacy. Woven into the documentary are family home videos, newly recorded interviews, and archival recordings, including Sutzkever’s testimony at the Nuremberg Trial.

YERUSALEM: The Incredible Story of Ethiopian Jewry
Dir. Levi Zini | 90 min
Documentary | Israel | 2021
Hebrew, Amharic and English w/English subtitles

World Premiere

A new feature documentary (based on the Israeli documentary series) brings to life the story of the long and tumultuous journey of the Jewish Ethiopian community as they find their way back to the heart of the Jewish people—Jerusalem.

Yerusalem is the story of an isolated Jewish tribe who kept its faith for thousands of years even when they lived in a hostile environment.

The documentary weaves together the tales of the first and second generation of immigrants, rabbinical cases, Aliyah activists, Mossad personnel, ship commanders and pilots, government administrators and others who risked their lives to bring Ethiopian Jews to their ancestral land—where, once finally arrived, they were required to prove their Jewishness and fight for their place in Israeli society.
VIRTUAL EVENTS

YOU HAD TO BE THERE
Dir. Avi Merkado | 55 min
Documentary | Israel | 2021
Hebrew w/English subtitles

A fascinating and life-affirming investigation of the critical role of humor as a coping mechanism during the Holocaust. Israeli comedian Tal Friedman interviews survivors (even having a beer with two of them in bar!), who shed light on the profundity and importance of keeping laughter alive, even in the bleakest and most horrific of circumstances.

While the topic of humor in WWII ghettos and concentration camps has occasionally been broached on screen (The Producers, Curb Your Enthusiasm, The Last Laugh), this deftly executed documentary more directly brings the vital voice of survivors themselves into the conversation.

Their heroic, and occasionally downright hilarious stories, serve as an indelible reminder that our humanity—and with it, our ability to laugh—is the last thing that can be taken from us.

CAFritz Hall Returns
Fall 2021!

Visit Cafritz Hall at the EDCJCC this fall for indie cinema runs, local and international concerts, and live conversations with filmmakers and musicians.
MAJOR SPONSORS

PRESENTING SPONSOR ($75,000+)
Howard and Geraldine Polinger Family Foundation

MAJOR SPONSORS ($20,000 - $74,999)
DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities
Ginny and Irwin Edlavitch
Nussdorf Family Foundation

EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS ($10,000–$19,999)
The Dweck Family
Deborah and Michael Salzberg
Government of Washington, DC
Linda and Sid Moskowitz

PRODUCERS ($5,000–$9,999)
Goldblatt Martin Pozen LLP
Scott Eric Dreyer and Ellen Clare Gillespie Dreyer
Rena and Michael Gordon
Cyna and Paul Cohen, Sara C. Cohen and Norm J. Rich
Embassy of Israel
Jacob and Charlotte Lehrman Foundation

ASSOCIATE PRODUCERS ($3,000–$4,999)
Lois and Richard England Family Foundation
Consulate General of the Kingdom of the Netherlands
Cathy S. Bernard
Dina Gold
William Kreisberg
Dianne and Herb Lerner
Johanna Chanin and Randall Levitt
Richard Solloway
Diane Abelman Wattenberg

PATRONS ($1,100–$2,999)
Deborah and Charles Both
Brenda Gruss and Daniel Hirsch
Joan and Barry Rosenthal
Lynn and John Sachs
Morgan and Josh Genderson
Rae Grad and Manuel Schiffrès
Heidi Wachs
Carol and Gary Berman
Marion Ein Lewin
Alison Baraf and Aryeh Portnoy
Anita Wolke and Ken Brooks
Dave Connick
Shelley and Adam Ducker
Myrna Fawcett
Jill and Robert Granader
Anita Lampel and Daniel Metlay
Carol Mates and Mark Kahan
Joy Midman
Nancy and Saul Pilchun
Mimi Tygiar and Robert Rubin
Les Silverman

TASTEMAKERS ($550–$1,099)
Stuart Eizenstat
Aviva Kempner
Nadine Cohodas
Lorraine Gallard and Richard H. Levy
Iris Lipkowitz
Jeffery Yablon
Charlotte and Michael Baer
Leesa Fields and Jonathan Band
Lori and Scott Gale
Sandra Hoexter
Miriam Mörsel Nathan and Harvey Nathan
Diane Lipson Schilit and Howard Schilit
Michael Singer
Deborah Tannen and Michael Macovski

FANS ($175–$449)
Meg and Samuel Flax
Alma and Sid Kaplan
Martha Winter Gross and Robert Tracy
Carol Ann Dyer
Joy Lerner and Stephen Kelin
Debby Prigal
Paula Bienenfeld and Emlen Myers
Morris J. Chalick, MD
Mindy Gashalter
Lynn Goldin and Henry Birnkrant
Carmel and Barry Chiswick
Morris Cohen
Beth and Jeremy Steindecker
Margaret Hahn Stern and Stephen Stern
Irene Vangssness and Richard Berzon
Ambassador Julia Chang Bloch and Stuart Bloch
Ellen Nissenbaum and Jeffrey Colman
Debra and Marvin Feuer
Linda and Jay Freedman
Susan and Michael Friedman
Ann and Frank Gilbert
Alison Drucker and Tom Holzman
The Keaton Family
Lynn Levin Oshinsky and Stan Oshinsky
Roz and Sandy Levy
Dalya and Edward Luttwak
Aviva Meyer
Aubrey Cox and Joseph Ottenstein
Edna Povich
Linda Roth
Diane Scheininger
Sheri Stroud
Sheila Taube
Janet and Henry Waxman
Joan S. Wessel

EDCJCC FUND SUPPORT
Milton and Helen Covensky Fund
The Samuel and Marlene Halperin Arts Fund
Chaim Kempner Fund
The Harriet J. Neuman Endowment Fund
Max and Esther Ticktin Fund
The Arthur Tracy “The Street Singer” Endowment Fund
Marjorie Watson Serendipity Fund

LEAD SUPPORT OF THE EDLAVITCH DCJCC IS PROVIDED BY
The Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation
Susie and Michael Gelman,
The Morningstar Foundation
The Jewish Federation of Greater Washington
Arlene and Robert Kogod,
The Robert and Arlene Kogod Family Foundation

JxJ is funded in part by the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities, an agency supported by the National Endowment for the Arts.