

2005 HOUSTON JEWISH film festival



CHANNELS OF RAGE



HIDING AND SEEKING



DIVAN



SUZIE GOLD



WALK ON WATER



ROSENSTRASSE



LE GRAND ROLE



BEHIND ENEMY LINES



ROOM 18



WATERMARKS



NINA'S TRAGEDIES



LOST EMBRACE

Extra! Extra! Night before Opening Night - for High School and College Students!

CHANNELS OF RAGE

Wednesday • March 16 – 7:30 p.m. JCC

Director: Anat Halachmi

Israel, 2003, 72 min, Hebrew and Arabic with English subtitles; Winner Best Documentary Award 2003 Jerusalem International Film Festival

A provocative exploration of rappers who use the power of words to say what politicians can't. As an aspiring rapper, Tamer would watch Subliminal perform in Tel Aviv's underground clubs. As Subliminal became a symbol for Israeli right wing, Tamer himself, became admired among Arab audiences, thirsty for a hero who spoke for them. *Channels of Rage* follows the parallel and intersecting story of two poets of wrath in violent times. A fascinating glimpse into Israeli politics. Contains graphic language. \$5 admission for everyone.

HIDING AND SEEKING: FAITH AND TOLERANCE AFTER THE HOLOCAUST and Opening Night Reception

Thursday • March 17 JCC

7:00 p.m. Cocktail Reception • 8:15 p.m. Movie

Directors: Menachem Daum and Oren Rudavsky
USA, 2003, 85 min, English, Yiddish, and Polish with English subtitles

Director Menachem Daum, troubled by his ultra-Orthodox sons' narrow and insular views of the Gentile world, takes them on an emotional journey to find the Polish family who saved their grandfather during the Holocaust. A deeply moving intergenerational saga, this rich documentary addresses both the wounds of the past and the ongoing challenge of combating intolerance.

Reception and movie \$18.00

Director Oren Rudavsky in attendance

DIVAN

Friday • March 18 – 2:00 p.m. JCC

Tuesday • March 22 – 6:15 p.m. JCC

Director: Pearl Gluck

USA/Hungary, 2003, 77 min, English, Yiddish, and Hungarian with English subtitles

Director Pearl Gluck takes a renegade approach to healing a personal breach with her father. Raised in a Hassidic Jewish community in Brooklyn, she travels to her family's homeland, Hungary. She searches for a turn of the century family heirloom, a couch upon which revered rebbes once slept. Bringing back this couch, or divan, she hopes, will compensate her father for the fact that she did not get married and return to the Hassidic world. *Divan* is a marvelous visual parable in which reupholstering a couch stands as a means of reclaiming family heritage.

SUZIE GOLD – Regional Premiere

Saturday • March 19 – 7:00 p.m. MFAH

Sunday • March 20 – 3:00 p.m. MFAH

Director: Richard Cantor

England, 2002, 93 min, English

Likened to *My Big Fat Greek Wedding* and *Bend it Like Beckham*, *Suzie Gold* is a comedy set in the vibrant and colorful world of North London: full of humor, spunk and warmth. The film follows a young girl as she tries to establish herself outside the social conventions and traditions of her Jewish family. *Suzie Gold's* dilemmas are universal, says writer Rebecca Green, "I didn't want to make a comedy that alienates anyone or is seen as a minority film about Jewish people. To me it's a comedy about identity: a film that's got some heart in it, some soul."

GLOOMY SUNDAY

Saturday • March 19 – 9:00 p.m. MFAH

Sunday • March 27 – 1:00 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. MFAH

Director: Rolf Schübel

Germany/Hungary, 1999, 112 min, German and Hungarian with English subtitles

In the shadow of World War II, three men fall in love with the alluring Ilona - a prosperous, nominally Jewish, Hungarian restaurateur, a talented musician who composes the title song, *Gloomy Sunday* in her honor, and a German businessman who rises through the Nazi ranks. The song which achieved iconic stature in the 1930's haunts this drama of passion and treachery.

WALK ON WATER

Sunday • March 20 – 5:00 p.m. MFAH

Director: Eytan Fox

Israel, 2004, 104 min, English, Hebrew and German with English subtitles

Following his successful film, *Yossi and Jagger*, Fox returns with a thriller about a hardened Mossad assassin hunting down a fugitive Nazi war criminal. Posing as an Israeli tour guide, he befriends his target's German grandchildren. Their growing trust begins to unravel when each confronts ghosts from the past, but the mission must go on.

ROSENSTRASSE –

Back by Popular Demand

Sunday • March 20 – 7:00 p.m. MFAH

Director: Margarethe von Trotta

Germany/Netherlands, 2003, 136 min, German and English with English subtitles
Best Actress, Katja Riemann,
Venice Film Festival, 2003

Respected German filmmaker Margarethe von Trotta (*Marianne and Juliane*; *Rosa Luxembourg*) has taken a fascinating page from history and crafted a poignant tale of powerful devotion overcoming despotism and hatred. After assuming power in 1933, the Nazis quickly purged the country of its Jews. Some Jews, however, who were the husbands of German Christians, were protected and lived in relative safety in Berlin, until the winter of 1943. Their fate seemed as final as that of the rest of the German Jews until their Aryan wives intervened. *Rosentrasse* is a touching, compassionate and inspirational love story for the ages.

LE GRAND ROLE

Monday • March 21 – 6:15 p.m. JCC

Wednesday • March 23 – 8:15 p.m. JCC

Director: Steve Suissa

France, 2003, 89 min, French and Yiddish with English subtitles

Laughter and tears vie for top billing in this highly entertaining feature. For years, Maurice and his thirty-something actor friends have been waiting for their big break. The future looks bright when famous American Director Rudolph Grichenberg (Peter Coyote) offers Maurice the lead role in his Yiddish screen adaptation of *The Merchant of Venice*. But life throws some curves at Maurice and his wife Perla, which forces him to play the ultimate role of his life. *Variety* magazine calls this film "A crowd pleasing dramatic comedy about love, friendship, role-playing and Jewish pride."

BEHIND ENEMY LINES preceded by SLEEPING WITH THE ENEMY

Monday • March 21 – 8:15 p.m. JCC

BEHIND ENEMY LINES

Director: Dov Gil-Har

Israel, 2004, 64 min, English, Hebrew, and Arabic with English subtitles

An Israeli policeman and a Palestinian journalist take a politically tense road trip into Intifada Land. Benny Hernes and Adnan Joulani visit places each has selected to symbolize the heart of the Israeli/Palestinian conflict. These two men, from different backgrounds, openly discuss and sometimes argue, in a dialogue that does not attempt to minimize their differences or simplify the complexity of the situation.

SLEEPING WITH THE ENEMY

Director: Dov Gil-Har

Israel, 2000, 26 min, English, Hebrew, and Arabic with English subtitles

In an effort to aid the Middle East peace process, the Japanese government has hosted Israelis and Palestinians to help them explore and develop a mutual understanding of their shared future. Dov Gil-Har followed one such group and chronicled the events as they slept, ate and debated together.

SAM SPIEGEL FILM SCHOOL – A Tribute in Shorts

Tuesday • March 22 – 8:15 p.m. JCC

Wednesday • March 23 – 6:15 p.m. JCC

Various Directors

Israel, approx 110 min, short films, Arabic, English and Hebrew with English subtitles

Selections from the *Best of the Best 15th Anniversary Collection of Short Films* from the prestigious Sam Spiegel School of Film and Television in Jerusalem. Films include *A Different War* (Nadav Gal), *Bedouin Sand* (Omri Levy), *Sea Horses* (Nir Bergman), *Home* (David Ofek), and *Sliding Flora* (Talya Lavie). An additional short, *Room 18* from our own Houston, Israeli Director of Photography Gil Nir, will be screened with the filmmaker in attendance.

Bagels, Coffee and Films

WATERMARKS preceded by A GOOD UPLIFT

Thursday • March 24 – 10:00 a.m. JCC

Bagels and Coffee available at 9:30 a.m.

Drawing for a \$50 Top Drawer gift certificate prior to the screening.

WATERMARKS

Director: Yaron Zilberman

Israel, 2004, 77 min, Hebrew, German and English with English subtitles

The film is the story of seven young women who were part of a championship swim team from the legendary Jewish sports club Hakoah, in Vienna. They dominated swimming competitions and shattered stereotypes until the Anschluss in 1938 when they fled the country. In their eighties and remarkably vigorous they hold a reunion at the swimming pool in Vienna. Winner of Best Cinematography at the Jerusalem International Film Festival.

A GOOD UPLIFT

Director: Faye Lederman

USA, 2003, 13 min, English

This peek into a tiny Lower East Side lingerie shop, where owner and Jewish grandmother Magda Bernstein supports women of all shapes and sizes in their quest for the perfect bra, is a sheer delight.

NINA'S TRAGEDIES

Saturday • March 26 – 7:00 p.m. and 9:15 p.m. MFAH

Director: Savi Gabizon

Israel, 2003, 110 min, Hebrew with English subtitles

Winner of 11 Israeli Film Academy Awards (including Best Picture, Best Director, and Best Screenplay) and the top Israeli box office draw last year, *Nina's Tragedies* is a story of acceptance and the power of love to heal. Fourteen-year old Nadav has a father who abandons him to pursue a religious life, and a self-absorbed, promiscuous mother who totally ignores him. When the husband of his beautiful Aunt Nina is killed, Nadav is sent to live with her. Even though he is secretly smitten with his sexy aunt, he shares in her grief and comes to terms with Nina's growing love for a man her own age. Nudity and adult content.

LOST EMBRACE –

Closing Night at the JCC

Sunday • March 27 – 7:30 p.m. JCC

Director: Daniel Burman

Argentina, 2004, 100 min, Spanish with English subtitles

In his fourth feature, Argentinean writer-director Daniel Burman introduces us to Ariel's world: a seedy shopping mall in downtown Buenos Aires. His family owns a lingerie shop amidst an intriguing neighborhood of Italian and Korean shopkeepers. Ariel years to start a new life in Europe and search for the truth about his father, who never returned from the Yom Kippur War. Burman conjures up a world of engaging characters that pursue their humble dreams with gentle humor and an infectious generosity of spirit. At the 2004 Berlin International Film Festival, this beautifully written and performed film won two prestigious Silver Bear Awards: one for the film and one for lead actor Daniel Hendler's performance.

All films will be screened at the JCC or The MFAH