HEY, 2020: A VIRTUAL FILM FESTIVAL PLUS TWO DRIVE-IN EVENTS? TAKE THAT!



For Jew and You Too.

18th Austin Jewish Film Festival | November 7-13, 2020 | Austin JFF.org







WELCOME TO AJFF 2020 A FESTIVAL LIKE NO OTHER!

November 7-13, 2020

Join us for our gala opening night drive-in event on the Dell Jewish Community campus. Tickets are limited and expected to sell out.

See AustinJFF.org to obtain yours and to get full up-to-the-minute details.

In the words of Jerry Garcia, "What a long, strange trip it's been!" We realized last spring that the 2020 Austin Jewish Film Festival would need to be different. Very different. We had recently started AJFF365—our collaboration with Shalom Austin to offer great year-round Jewish film programming. Things were going great, when suddenly everything shut down due to COVID-19.

Since then we've seen other festivals cancel or scale back their programs. But AJFF went a different way. We leaned in! We acquired our own video-on-demand system, allowing us to exhibit movies online. We used this

to dramatically increase our AJFF365 programming by tripling our events each month. For our fall Festival, we put our heads together and imagined the best Festival we could produce while keeping everyone safe and sound.

And here it is: secure, socially-distanced, drive-in events for opening and closing nights and a Virtual Film Festival for the rest of the week with four times more programming than we've ever had before! Drive-in events will include food, live pre-

show music and other entertainment, world-class films, and live Q&As with the filmmakers. These events aren't just about seeing a great film—they're **experiences!**

During the rest of the week, our Virtual Festival includes the latest and greatest new Jewish films as well as "Best of the Fest Past" movies that we're bringing back. And we'll have lots of filmmaker Q&As in which you can participate live or watch later via our Vimeo channel. There will be something for everyone! All this makes our Virtual Festival Pass an incredible value—Buy one and you can participate in all online programs.

Read through this Program Guide for summaries of the Festival films and to learn more about this year's Festival. You'll find full details on all films and other information at our website, **AustinJFF.org**, which recently received a new, more modern look. You'll also use our website to purchase Memberships, passes, and individual tickets. Once the Festival starts, you can even click a button at checkout to immediately start viewing a film. In this odd year, AJFF is doing its best to "Keep Austin Weird"—Come join us and do your part!



OPENING NIGHT DRIVE-IN EVENT

Saturday, November 7 Dell Jewish Community Campus

THE CROSSING

Recent winner of the Amanda (Norway's "Oscar") for best family-friendly film.

Food, drink, pre-show music and other entertainment, a great movie, and a filmmaker Q&A, all in one ticket.

Note: Tickets MUST be purchased in advance—no on-site ticket sales. Also, pay close attention to the event arrival time. Drive-in events will close to entrants much earlier than regular theatrical presentations. Latecomers cannot be accommodated. But there will be lots of great pre-show entertainment that you won't want to miss.

Tickets are just \$50 per car, including two passengers. Additional passenger tickets are available at \$20 each. Premium and Classic Members get free drive-in ticket benefits, while Chai and Basic Members get discounts on drive-in ticket purchases. All Members get early access to obtaining drive-in tickets before the public. For full details, check out the Membership page at AustinJFF.org/membership.

OPENING NIGHT EVENT



Gates open: 6:45 PM Gates close: 7:30 PM

Pre-show entertainment: 7:00 - 7:45 PM, followed by movie and live Q&A with Director Johanne Helgeland.

Tickets & Passes

This year there are three kinds of events that require tickets or passes:

- from November 7-13. Participate by purchasing a Virtual Festival Pass to obtain free tickets to all Virtual Festival programs—an incredible value, since we have four times the number of feature films as last year at the same pass price! Individual tickets may be purchased for each program by those who do not have a pass. See the SLIDING SCALE PRICING information below.
- Festival Drive-In events on opening and closing nights of the festival, November 7 and 12. See the SPECIAL OPENING NIGHT AND CLOSING NIGHT DRIVE-IN EVENTS information below.
- AJFF365 monthly film series. These are film-based programs that take place the rest of the year, **outside** the annual Film Festival. We're committed to at least one program per month, but during the pandemic we've been averaging three events each month. The AJFF365 Pass provides free access to all AJFF365 monthly film series programs for a full 12 months from the date of purchase. Individual paid tickets are available for each program for those who do not have an AJFF365 Pass.

AJFF Members get benefits ranging from discounts on these tickets and passes, all the way up through free access to all **AJFF** programs, depending on the Membership level. See AustinJFF.org/membership for full details.

SLIDING SCALE PRICING

This year, the festival is offering sliding scale pricing for Virtual Festival tickets and passes. That means there are a few different price levels for the exact same ticket or pass. Why? Because the pandemic has created unique situations where a "one size fits all" approach does not work. There are "Standard" price tickets and passes, but those who cannot afford our regular ticket price can get a lower cost "Helping Hand" ticket. No one will be turned away, so if even that is too expensive for you, contact us and we will make arrangements for you to be able to get tickets at a price you can afford. Meanwhile, we know some will be buying a single ticket or

pass and sharing it with others in their households, where in previous years each person would need their own. Our "Chai" and "Multi/Macher" options allow you to pay a little extra that both supports our "Helping Hand" program and enables us to make up for lost revenue from those sharing tickets and passes in their households. Full details at AustinJFF.org/sliding-scale-pricing

SPECIAL OPENING NIGHT AND CLOSING NIGHT DRIVE-IN EVENTS | \$50 (FOR 2 PEOPLE)

Ticket includes vehicle admission with two passengers. Additional passengers in the same vehicle: \$20 each.

Each ticket holder receives food, drink, and a full evening of entertainment, including pre-show entertainment, the drive-in film, and participation in the real-time virtual Q&A with the filmmaker.

Drive-in tickets go on public sale September 30, 2020.

Note: Premium Members may claim one free ticket to both opening night and closing night events with an unlimited number of passengers in one vehicle.

Classic Members may claim one free ticket to either opening night or closing night events with an unlimited number of passengers in one vehicle. They may buy a ticket to the other event at a 15% discount.

Chai and Basic memberships include discounts on drive-in tickets.

VIRTUAL FESTIVAL PASS \$120 STANDARD \$180 CHAI

\$200 MULTI/MACHER

BEST VALUE, EASIEST TO USE - ON SALE SEPTEMBER 30

Each Virtual Festival Pass provides free access to **all** virtual films and Q&A events in our festival from November 7-13. Also, Virtual Festival Pass holders automatically get a 5% discount off drive-in tickets. Note that Standard, Chai, and Mutli/Macher are different price levels for the *exact same* pass. See the sliding scale pricing section for more information.

With the Virtual Festival Pass, watch what you want, when you want. This year there are **way** more films than ever before—the kinds of films you know and love the festival for, some favorites from festivals past, as well as edgy new content that won't appeal to everyone, but just might be your "cup of tea." You're guaranteed to find something you'll love!

VIRTUAL FESTIVAL TICKETS - ON SALE FROM NOVEMBER 1

STANDARD | \$12

The regular price *per viewing* for a ticket. This gives you access to one film that you can watch at any time during the entire festival. Note that once you begin viewing, you'll have 48 hours to complete watching. If there is a Q&A associated with the film, this is included at no extra charge.

HELPING HAND | \$8

For those who cannot afford a standard ticket.

Note: If "Helping Hand" pricing is still not affordable for you, contact AJFF at info@AustinJFF.org; we'll make arrangements so you'll be able to participate in our programs at whatever amount you can contribute. Access is identical to that of the Standard ticket.

CHAI | \$18

For those who'd like to contribute a little extra to help out and support the "Helping Hand" pricing. Access is identical to that of the Standard ticket.

MULTI/MACHER | \$20

For those who plan to have more than one person watch together OR would like to contribute extra to support those who can't afford regular tickets. Access is identical to that of the Standard ticket.

GROUP BULK TICKET PURCHASE

Groups wanting to purchase 20 or more tickets can receive a special discount and be listed as a Community Partner for the film. Contact info@AustinJFF.org for additional information.



How to Order Tickets

ONLINE

Just choose the film you want to watch from our website, click "Get Tickets." then check out. If you don't already have an account on our system you will need to set one up. For Virtual Festival Pass holders, your ticket will be offered to you for free; if you're not a pass holder, you choose which of the four ticket prices you want to pay. You'll receive an order confirmation email that is your receipt. If you've obtained your ticket before the festival, the film will not be available to view just yet; once it is, you'll be sent an email with a link to watch it (and instructions for how you maybe be able to watch on your TV). If you get your ticket during the festival, the film will be available to view immediately.

BOX OFFICE

We ask our audience to ticket themselves online, but if you have difficulties, we also have a virtual box office where we can issue you a ticket by getting your order over the phone. If you need this assistance, email boxoffice@AustinJFF.org and include your phone number as well as the events you want tickets for.

Additional Information and Policies for Drive-In Events

ARRIVAL TIME

Drive-in attendees must arrive by the "gates closed" time. Late arrivals will not be admitted, and no refunds will be issued for late arrivals. Unlike normal theatrical events where late arrivals can be quickly seated even after the film has started, with drive-in events vehicles have to be inspected by security, checked in, then guided to their designated parking spot. This takes time, and for the safety and security of all, it's paramount that guests arrive in a timely manner. We'll be providing great entertainment for the period after you have parked and before the main feature film starts, which you won't want to miss, so plan on arriving early!

VEHICLE PARKING FOR DRIVE-IN EVENTS

There are no reserved parking spots at drive-in events. To maximize the viewing experience for everyone, ushers will direct you where to park based upon your vehicle size and arrival time.

VENUE REGULATIONS

AJFF strives to provide a safe, pleasant, and secure environment for festival attendees. All cell phones and other electronic devices at drive-in events should be turned off or silenced and kept dark once the movie begins. Please do not text or check devices during screenings-lit screens are distracting to others. The use of cameras or recording devices of any kind is strictly prohibited during the screenings. Please take all personal belongings and litter with you as you exit the venue. AJFF is not responsible for personal items left behind at the venue. There will be additional regulations to ensure proper social distancing. Please consult AustinJFF.org for more details. Drive-in patrons will be given a summary of important information upon arrival.

SECURITY

Tickets for drive-in events *must* be obtained in advance and printed out to present to security upon entering the Dell Jewish Community Campus. The only on-site ticket sales will be for existing ticket holders who need tickets for extra passengers in their vehicles.

AJFF screenings are monitored with the assistance of Austin Police Department officers. AJFF and Shalom Austin reserve the right to search vehicles and personal belongings of any attendee. AJFF reserves the right to refuse entry or to eject from the venue any disruptive attendees. No guns, knives, explosives, or other weapons are allowed at AJFF events.

QUESTIONS

For further information or questions, contact **AJFF** at info@AustinJFF.org.

Locations

All events are online, except for the opening night and closing night programs which will be held at:

Dell Jewish Community Campus 7300 Hart Lane, Austin, Texas 78731

2020 AJFF Committee Members

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

David Finkel, Director David Goldblatt, Executive Director Cindy Pinto, Executive Director Cynthia Winer, Executive Committee

COMMITTEE

Sara Blatt - Committee member Wendy Corn - Marketing Kelly Finkel - Outreach Coordinator Joe Oliveri - Volunteer Coordination David Pinto - Committee member Jay Rubin - Fundraising Miriam Sherrod -

Movie Database Manager Eric Stein - Finance Fai Lee Steinberg - Webmaster Rachel Wimberly -

JCAA liaison to the AJFF
Joe Winer - Chief Editor
Chris Romano - Committee member
Deborah Moore - Bookkeeper
Alison Steir - Editor/writer
Allison Welch - Editor/writer
Laraine Lasden - Committee member
Norbi Zyberberg Socialisssima marketing

Kristen O'Brien - Kristen O'Brien PR

Become a Member

Membership is a brand-new program for AJFF, launched in mid-August 2020. Being an existing subscriber to the AJFF365 Pass is not the same as Membership. Check out AustinJFF.org/membership for a full list of benefits and to sign up.

If you are an existing AJFF365 Pass holder and interested in signing up for Classic or Premium level Membership, email info@AustinJFF.org to get a prorated credit for your current AJFF365 Pass.

Shalom Austin is **AJFF**'s oldest and closest partner.

Shalom Austin's in-kind support is a key factor behind our joint AJFF365 Monthly Film Series program and much more.

MISSION & VISION

VISION STATEMENT

The **Austin Jewish Film Festival** seeks to promote cultural understanding and tolerance among the Greater Austin community, encourage artistic development, and entertain our audiences through the medium of Jewish film.

MISSION STATEMENT

The **Austin Jewish Film Festival** presents the best Jewish films from the U.S. and around the world to entertain and educate the Greater Austin community and provides complementary programs to enhance the cinematic experience.

This project is supported in part by the Cultural Arts Division of the City of Austin Economic Development Department.



"FOR JEW AND YOU TOO."

AJFF is now in its eighteenth season and we continue to grow! The Austin population is booming, and we want to be sure our neighbors have heard about the great films and programs **AJFF** brings to our vibrant city. **"For Jew and You Too"** affirms our invitation for inclusivity to everyone and demonstrates that you don't have to be Jewish to connect, understand, or have fun at our film festival.

Sharing movies with great stories from different parts of the world helps us to teach others about our culture, our art, and Jewish movies too.

Invite a new friend to participate in the festival. Nu? What are you waiting for?

Help us reach out:

Click Like/Follow us on our social media:

Facebook.com/AustinJFF Twitter.com/austinjewishff Instagram.com/austinjff

AustinJFF.org



2020 AJFF SCHEDULE

Last-minute schedule changes happen—Visit AustinJFF.org for all the latest Festival information.

This year the only events that will take place at a specific date and time are: our opening night drive-in event, closing night drive-in event, and live Q&A programs.

All Virtual Festival films will be available to view for the entire Festival week at **any** time of day or night. Q&A programs will also be recorded, so you can watch them later on the Festival's Vimeo Channel if you prefer.

Note: Be sure to read the guidelines about drive-in programs on our website. Specific directions have been developed to ensure that the events run smoothly, and to keep everyone safe. All audience members will be required to comply with these directions.

Drive-In Events

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7

OPENING NIGHT

Gates open: 6:45 PM Gates close: 7:30 PM

Pre-show program: 7:00 - 7:45 PM including live music by Eliza Wren, followed by movie and live Q&A with director.

THE CROSSING

Director: Johanne Helgeland

Norway | 2020 | Family Friendly, Dramatic Stories, WWII, Women's Stories | 90 minutes | Norwegian (with subtitles) | Texas Premiere

Q&A following the film with director Johanne Helgeland, live from Oslo.

Location: Dell Jewish Community Campus lower field.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12

CLOSING NIGHT

Gates open: 6:45 PM Gates close: 7:30 PM

Pre-show program: 7:00 - 7:45 PM including live music by Mazel Tov Kocktail Hour, followed by movie and live Q&A with director.

AULCIE

Director: Dani Menkin

USA, Israel | 2020 | Documentary, Biography, Sports, Israel | 72 minutes | English and Hebrew (with subtitles) | Texas Premiere

Q&A following the film with director Dani Menkin, live from Los Angeles.

Location: Dell Jewish Community Campus lower field.

Real-Time Virtual Q&A Events

Each real-time Q&A requires a ticket, included with the ticket for the relevant film. Afterwards, recordings of the Q&A will be available on the AJFF Vimeo Channel, accessible by clicking the Vimeo icon in the footer of our website.

Last-minute schedule changes happen—Visit AustinJFF.org for all the latest Festival information.

2020 is **AJFF**'s 18th (Chai) Year. In Judaism Chai means "Life." We promise you a "lively" experience this year!

Q&A PROGRAMS

This year there will be more Q&As with filmmakers than ever before—you'll be able to participate live and pose your question to the artists, or watch later at any time on our Vimeo channel. Specific participants will be confirmed closer to the festival, but this is the anticipated schedule of live Q&A programs:

	Saturday, November 7	Sunday, November 8	Monday, November 9	Tuesday, November 10	Wednesday, November 11	Thursday, November 12	Friday, November 13
12:00PM		European/ Israeli filmmaker					
2:00PM			European/ Israeli filmmaker	European/ Israeli filmmaker	European/ Israeli filmmaker	European/ Israeli filmmaker	European/ Israeli filmmaker
3:00PM		European/ Israeli filmmaker					
7:30PM	Opening Night Event	American filmmaker	American filmmaker	American filmmaker	American filmmaker	Closing Night Event	American filmmaker
After Drive-In Film finishes	Johanne Helgeland The Crossing					Dani Menkin Aulcie	

* See specific timing for Opening Night and Closing Nights events above.

SUPPORT AJFF

WHY SUPPORT AJFF?

The support of our Members is critical to the sustained success of the **Austin Jewish Film Festival**. Ticket and pass sales account for less than 15% of our annual operating budget. Our regular grants have been canceled or severely curtailed this year. The remainder of our funding comes from the generous support of Members and Sponsors like you who share our commitment to providing a Jewish experience through film to our community. Your financial support is especially crucial this year.

WAYS YOU CAN SUPPORT AJFF:

MEMBERSHIP: A brand-new program for AJFF. It launched in mid-August 2020 and replaces our previous Patron program. AJFF Members get valuable benefits and make a tax-deductible contribution to AJFF when they purchase a Membership.

Note: being an AJFF365 Pass holder is not the same as Membership. If you are an existing AJFF365 subscriber and are interested in signing up for Classic or Premium level Membership, please contact us to get a prorated credit for your current AJFF365 Pass.

Full details at AustinJFF.org/membership.

SPONSORSHIP: AJFF has a sponsorship program designed principally for businesses, with various levels and benefits available. Custom sponsorship packages can be arranged. See AustinJFF.org/sponsorship for more details or email sponsorship@AustinJFF.org.

DONATIONS: For those wishing to make a tax-deductible contribution to AJFF and not receive benefits in return, we have a donation program. In addition to collecting funds for the festival, AJFF also has a donation campaign to support Jewish Family Service's community COVID-19 response. Donate at AustinJFF.org/donate.

SLIDING SCALE TICKETS AND PASSES: If you aren't a member or sponsor, you can opt to make a simple "micro-donation" by choosing to pay a little more for your tickets or passes. See details on sliding scale pricing in this Program Guide.

VOLUNTEER: The 18th annual Austin Jewish Film Festival could not take place without the talents and skills of our many volunteers. We're grateful for the passion and commitment of all those who help bring this wonderful festival to the Austin community. To learn more about becoming a volunteer, visit AustinJFF.org/volunteer.

AJFF 2020: SOCIALLY CLOSE / PHYSICALLY DISTANT



FILM GENRES

Note: This year AJFF will have way more films than ever before. These are just the films confirmed at time of press. Additional films continue to be added to the Festival. Check AustinJFF.org for the latest lineup.

ANIMATION

The Execution of Memory The Tattooed Torah

AMERICAN JEWISH LIFE

Albert Einstein: Still a Revolutionary L'Dor V'Dor The Tattooed Torah Winter Journey

ANTI-SEMITISM

Box for Life After Munich The Tattooed Torah Thou Shalt Not Hate When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit

ARTS AND CULTURE

Army of Lovers in the Holy Land Bukra fil Mish-Mish God of the Piano The Day of Wrath The Execution of Memory The Prague Orgy The Tattooed Torah When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit Winter Journey

BIOGRAPHY

After Munich Albert Einstein: Still a Revolutionary Army of Lovers in the Holy Land Aulcie Box for Life Bukra fil Mish-Mish Dayan: The First Family Golda Menachim Begin: Peace and War My Name is Sara On The Beaches The Good Nazi The Rabbi from Hezbollah The Ashram Children Chichinette: The Accidental Spy An Irrepressible Woman

COMEDIC STORIES

On The Beaches Happy Times The Art of Waiting The Sign Painter

DOCUMENTARY

Albert Einstein:
Still a Revolutionary
After Munich
Army of Lovers in the Holy Land
Aulcie
Box for Life
Bukra fil Mish-Mish

Chichinette: The Accidental Spy Dayan: The First Family Golda Menachim Begin: Peace and War The Good Nazi The Rabbi from Hezbollah

DOCU-DRAMA

Winter Journey

The Ashram Children

DRAMA

15 Years Africa God of the Piano The Prague Orgy The Art of Waiting The Day of Wrath The Dead of Jaffa An Irrepressible Woman **Broken Mirrors** L'Dor V'Dor My Name is Sara The Crossing The Sign Painter The Tattooed Torah Thou Shalt Not Hate When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit Working Woman

FAMILY FRIENDLY

The Crossing
The Execution of Memory
When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit
On The Beaches
The Tattooed Torah

FRENCH STORIES

Box for Life Bukra fil Mish-Mish Chichinette: The Accidental Spy An Irrepressible Woman

GERMAN STORIES

Winter Journey When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit

ITALIAN STORIES

Thou Shalt Not Hate

HOLOCAUST AND WWII

Box for Life
The Good Nazi
Chichinette: The Accidental Spy
An Irrepressible Woman
My Name is Sara
On The Beaches
The Crossing
The Execution of Memory
The Sign Painter
The Tattooed Torah
When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit

HORROR

15 Years

Happy Times

ISRAELI STORIES

Africa After Munich Army of Lovers in the Holy Land Aulcie Box for Life Dayan: The First Family God of the Piano Golda Menachim Begin: Peace and War The Art of Waiting The Dead of Jaffa The Rabbi from Hezbollah The Ashram Children **Broken Mirrors** Working Woman

LGBTQ+ STORIES

15 Years Army of Lovers in the Holy Land

POLISH STORIES

The Day of Wrath The Execution of Memory

POLITICS

Dayan: The First Family Golda Menachim Begin: Peace and War An Irrepressible Woman

ROMANCE

15 Years The Art of Waiting The Sign Painter

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Albert Einstein: Still a Revolutionary Aulcie

SPORTS

After Munich Aulcie Box for Life

WOMEN'S STORIES

After Munich
Golda
Chichinette: The Accidental Spy
An Irrepressible Woman
Broken Mirrors
My Name is Sara
On The Beaches
The Crossing
When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit
Working Woman



The Crossing

OPENING NIGHT | SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7

GATES OPEN: 6:45 PM | GATES CLOSE: 7:30 PM DELL JEWISH COMMUNITY CAMPUS LOWER FIELD

Director: Johanne Helgeland

Norway | 2020 | Drama, Family Friendly, Holocaust and WWII, Women's Stories | 90 minutes | Norwegian (with subtitles) The Crossing tells the story of the adventurous 10-year-old Gerda and her brother Otto, whose parents are in the Norwegian resistance movement during the Second World War. One day, just before Christmas in 1942, Gerda and Otto's parents are arrested, leaving the siblings on their own. Following the arrest, they discover two Jewish children, Sarah and Daniel, hidden in a secret cupboard in their basement. It is now up to Gerda and Otto to finish what their

parents started: to help Sarah and Daniel flee from the Nazis, cross the border to neutral Sweden, and reunite them with their parents. *The Crossing* is a film about the confidence, uncompromising loyalty, and great courage you can find in even the youngest of children. Winner of the 2020 Amanda (Norway's equivalent of the Oscars).

FAMILY FRIENDLY
FILM FOLLOWED BY LIVE FILMMAKER Q&A



After Munich

Director: Francine Zuckerman

Canada | 2019 | Documentary, Israel, Anti-Semitism, Sports, Biography, Women's Stories | 78 minutes | English

September 5th 1972, the tenth day of the Munich Olympics—the Palestinian terrorist group Black September stormed the Israeli athletes' quarters. The world watched live on television as eleven hostages were taken and later killed

For the first time, this story will be told through the eyes of four women who were directly impacted by that day: an athlete, a widow, and two undercover agents. Their fates were changed forever as their wellbeing and life views were impacted by the trauma.

A film about love and death; conflict and reconciliation; war and peace.

MATURE THEMES, SOME GRAPHIC IMAGES



Happy Times

Director: Michael Mayer

USA, Israel, Italy | 2019 | Horror, Comedy | 93 minutes | English, Hebrew (with subtitles)

A boorish Israeli-American couple plan a Sabbath dinner party for a group of fellow ex-pat friends and family in their Hollywood Hills mansion. What could possibly go wrong? Well, start with a deadly mix of alcohol, add inflated egos, some inappropriate lust, and top with raging jealousy, and the result is a cauldron of murderous mayhem.

A shotgun, garden shears, kitchen knives, and even a garbage disposal are used as weapons of choice as these deranged guests turn on each other in director Michael Mayer's outrageous and bloody comedy. Actors include Austin's own Alon Pdut.

GRAPHIC VIOLENCE, SEXUAL CONTENT, DRUG USE



The Prague Orgy

Director: Irena Pavlásková

Czech Republic, Slovakia | 2019 | Drama, Arts and Culture | 112 minutes | English, Czech (with subtitles)

Based on the Philip Roth novel. A famous American writer accepts a quest from a Czech emigrant to bring him back unique Yiddish manuscripts from communist Czechoslovakia. The writer accepts not only a dangerous journey to Prague, where he is watched at every step by communist secret police, but he also needs to face the emigrant's flamboyant and wild wife. She is in possession of the manuscripts and very angry at her husband, as he left with his mistress for the US. She will not surrender the manuscripts easily.

MATURE THEMES, MATURE LANGUAGE, NUDITY, STRONG SEXUAL CONTENT



God of the Piano

Director: Itay Tal

Israel | 2019 | Drama, Arts and Culture, Israel | 80 minutes | Hebrew (with subtitles)

Anat (Naama Preis, winner of the Jerusalem Film Festival award for Best Actress) has never been able to reach her father's exacting musical standards, and now her family's hope of producing a musical prodigy rests on her unborn son. When the baby is born deaf, she cannot accept it and resorts to extreme measures to ensure that her child will be the composer that her father always wanted. But when the boy grows up indifferent to his destiny as a great pianist, Anat will have to stand up to her father—and her own actions.

MATURE THEMES, SEXUAL CONTENT

FOR A YEAR LIKE NO OTHER, AN AJFF LIKE NO OTHER.







The Dead of Jaffa

Director: Ram Loevy

Israel | 2019 | Drama, Israel | 96 minutes | English, Hebrew, Arabic (with subtitles) Three children from the West Bank are smuggled into Israel, arriving at the doorstep of George and Rita's house in Jaffa. Their mother is dead, and their father has been sentenced to life imprisonment. As Israeli Palestinians, George is afraid that hiding illegal aliens will endanger Rita and himself, while Rita believes the arrival of these children could give meaning to her life. Nearby, a foreign film is being shot.

Jerry, an English director, is making a movie about his parents' love affair in 1947, when they served in the British army in Palestine. George is invited to play a part in the film. When the two stories intertwine, tensions erupt.

MATURE LANGUAGE. DRUG USE



The Good Nazi

Directors: Ric Esther Bienstock, Yaron Niski

Canada, Israel | 2019 | Documentary, Holocaust and WWII, Biography | 52 minutes | English, Hebrew, German (with subtitles)

Nazi major Karl Plagge arrived in Vilnius, Lithuania, as part of the occupation force during WWII. With the SS hellbent on murdering every Jewish man, woman and child, Plagge decided to save, rather than murder, Jews. On the surface, he was commandant of the HKP forced labor camp; in reality, he was sheltering hundreds of Jewish families. By the end, many were saved, but many more were executed by the SS and buried in a mass grave.

With the government about to tear down the former HKP site, a group of scientists arrives to locate the hiding places of those that were saved, and identify the mass grave of the murdered. The film tracks the stories of a child survivor of the camp, an American physician whose mother was saved by Plagge, and Plagge himself.

MATURE LANGUAGE



The Rabbi from Hezbollah

Director: Itamar Chen

Israel | 2019 | Documentary, Israel, Biography | 64 minutes | Hebrew (with subtitles)

Ibrahim Yassin was born in a small village in Lebanon and was destined to follow in his father's footsteps as a farmer and shepherd, but fate had something else in store.

As the course of his life turns against him, death becomes his only wish. But just when it seems as if the story's over, a new one begins that sounds like a work of suspense fiction, placing Yassin at the heart of some of the most daring, dangerous, and secret operations Israel attempted in Lebanon in the 1980s and '90s.

GRAPHIC VIOLENCE



Africa

Director: Oren Gerner

Israel | 2019 | Drama, Israel | 82 minutes | Hebrew (with subtitles)

When retired 68 year-old Meir discovers that his thirty years of planning the annual village celebration have been summarily discarded, and the job has been given to inexperienced local teens instead, the ground beneath his feet begins to give way. In his effort to restore a sense of meaning and vitality, Meir begins to rebel against the inevitable: the betrayal of his physical body, the growing distance from his children, and the loss of relevance.

MATURE LANGUAGE, MATURE THEMES



The Ashram Children

Director: Jonathan Ofek

Israel | 2019 | Biography, Documentary, Israel | 67 minutes | English and Hebrew (with subtitles)

Filmmaker Jonathan Ofek grew up in Jerusalem and in an Indian Ashram— a fact that he had to keep secret. He was taught to dedicate his life to his Guru, to reach his goal in life, awaken from the "illusion," realize the "truth," and become enlightened. Twenty years (and a lot of therapy) later, Jonathan sets out on a journey of discovery to understand the effect these secrets had on him and to find out what happened to the other Ashram children. Was he raised in a cult?

MATURE LANGUAGE

WHO CARES IF YOU DO AJFF 2020 DRESSED AS A ZHLUB? 60+ MOVIES ONLINE, ALL WEEK, 24/7.



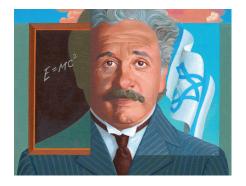


Broken Mirrors

Director: Aviad Givon, Imri Matalon Israel | 2019 | Drama, Israel, Women's Stories, | 104 minutes | Hebrew (with subtitles) "Yet another standout performance by Shira Haas (Shtisel, Unorthodox), cementing her place as one of the best young Jewish actors today. This tale of a dysfunctional family is an intense, gripping drama."

Shadowed by a strict, military father who inflicts severe methods of punishment as a form of discipline, seventeen year old Ariella commits a grave error that her father isn't willing to punish her for. Seeking a punishment of her own, Ariella embarks on a dark quest where she will discover a secret to her father's past that will lead them to confront one another.

MATURE LANGUAGE, MATURE THEMES, NUDITY, INTENSE SCENES



Albert Einstein: Still a Revolutionary

Director: Julia Newman

USA | 2020 | Documentary, American Jewish Life, Biography, Social Justice | 80 minutes | English

Albert Einstein, the most famous scientist of all time, was a world renowned celebrity. He was greeted like a rock star when he appeared in public. An anti-war firebrand, Einstein also spoke out on issues ranging from women's rights and racism, to immigration and nuclear arms control. But today, his image has been neutered into that of a charmingly absent-minded genius. He was, in fact, a powerful force for social change and a model for political activism.

Using a wealth of rarely-seen archival footage, correspondence, and new and illuminating interviews, filmmaker Julia Newman makes the case that Albert Einstein's example of social and political activism is as important today as are his brilliant, ground-breaking theories.



Golda

Directors: Sagi Bornstein, Udi Nir, Shani Rozanes

Israel, Germany | 2019 | Documentary, Biography, Israel, Women's Stories, Politics | 85 minutes | Hebrew (with subtitles)

Israel's only woman prime minister defends her clouded legacy in this riveting portrait backboned by a blunt, unaired TV interview. During her turbulent tenure, Golda Meir, idolized globally but often reviled in Israel, confronted sizable domestic and international challenges. Shortly before her death, she was interviewed by Israeli television. Once the show ended, cameras kept rolling as hardnosed Meir spoke freely between cigarette puffs about her stormy premiership and its personal toll. This extraordinary off-air exchange is buttressed by testimonials from devotees and detractors alike, as well as rare archival footage charting Golda's trailblazing rise to power and tragic demise.



Menachem Begin: Peace & War

Director: Levi Zini

Israel | 2020 | Documentary | 85 minutes | Hebrew (with subtitles)

Israel's 6th Prime minister, Menachem Begin led Israel for six dramatic and tumultuous years, which produced waves that are still felt deeply within the fabric of Israel's social and political landscape today. During Begin's shortened one-and-a-half terms of office, he faced a maelstrom of challenges and made a handful of fateful decisions that led to both creating peace and launching a war kindled by hubris.

Exploring these events, the film depicts a multi-faceted portrait of a man who held on to an unwavering ideology full of conflicts, as well as the cultural mosaic and fissured society that he sought to lead. The film merges rare archival footage shown for the first time, as well as current interviews with key figures from Menachem Begin's time as Prime Minister.



The Art of Waiting

Director: Erez Tadmor

Israel | 2019 | Comedic Stories, Drama, Israel, Romance | 90 minutes | Hebrew (with subtitles)

In this heartwarming, sweetly funny romance-dramedy, a thirty-something Israeli couple develops baby fever, putting their relationship to the test in a frenzy to get pregnant. Liran and Tali are happily married, but their lives are missing one thing: a baby. With the biological clock ticking, they embark on protracted fertility treatments, a physical and emotional roller-coaster of medical procedures, and regimented lovemaking. Facing pressure from family, friends, and each other, it's soon clear that the road to parenthood is no walk in the park.

Tackling a sensitive topic with earnest performances, this frank portrayal of modern pregnancy landed four Ophir (Israeli Academy Award) nominations, including Best Director.

MATURE LANGUAGE, NUDITY, SEXUAL CONTENT



Thou Shalt Not Hate

Director: Mauro Mancini

Italy, Poland | 2020 | Drama, Anti-Semitism, Italian Stories | 96 minutes | Italian (with subtitles) "A Holocaust survivor's son living in Trieste as a surgeon begins to doubt his actions of refusing to help a victim of a traffic accident. An unusual moral tale."

Simone Segre, a renowned surgeon of Jewish origins, lives in the city of Trieste in the north-east of Italy. He has a quiet life, an elegant apartment, and no connection with his past. One day he finds himself assisting a male victim of a hit and run accident. But when he discovers a Nazi tattoo on his chest, Simone abandons him to his destiny. Filled with guilt, he ends up tracing the man's family: Marica, the eldest daughter; Marcello, a teenager plagued with racial hate; and little Paolo. The night will come when Marica knocks at Simone's door and unknowingly asks for payback.

MATURE CONTENT



An Irrepressible Woman

Director: Laurent Heynemann

France | 2019 | Drama, Holocaust and WWII, Biography, French Stories, Politics, Women's Stories | 105 minutes | French (with subtitles)

The year is 1940, and French-Jewish socialist politician and three-time Prime Minister Leon Blum has been imprisoned at Buchenwald. This touching historical drama starring Elsa Zylberstein and Hippolyte Girardot follows Jeanne Reichenbach, who has been in love with Blum since they were teenagers but has always only admired him from afar. Now she is married with a son, but she is driven by the urge to link her fate with Blum's once and for all—As the Nazis invade France, she abandons her comfortable life and risks everything to reunite with and marry him in prison.

SOME INTENSE SCENES



Chichinette: The Accidental Spy

Director: Nicola Hens

Germany, France | 2020 | Documentary, Biography, French Stories, Holocaust and WWII, Women's Stories | 86 minutes | English and French (with subtitles)

It is only now, at the age of 98, that Marthe Cohn, a French Jew, can talk freely about her experience as a spy during the World War II. Known at the time as Chichinette, she was recruited as a young woman by the French army and sent to gather intelligence from inside Germany.

At four and a half feet tall, Cohn—then as today—may not look like much of a threat, but her incredible bravery and resourcefulness contributed to the Nazis' eventual defeat.

The Accidental Spy is as dynamic as the woman whose extraordinary story it tells.



The Sign Painter

Director: Viesturs Kairišs

Latvia, Lithuania, Czech Republic | 2020 | Drama, Holocaust and WWII, Romance | 114 minutes | Latvian, German, Russian, Yiddish (with subtitles)

A Latvian tragicomedy about a young artist who bears witness to the dramatic political upheavals of the Word War II era. As brutal regimes come and go, his country, his village, his people, and even his heart are swept up in the inexorable currents of history.

The film shows the ultimate triumph of the human spirit in the face of systematic, institutional inhumanity. It tells the story through the eyes of a somewhat naive, yet inherently wise soul—a lowly sign-painter/artist. The sweeping backdrop of the complex history of serial totalitarian occupation makes the story topical today.

MATURE THEMES, NUDITY



Winter Journey

Directors: Anders Østergaard, Erzsébet Rácz

Denmark, Germany | 2020 | Docu-Drama, Arts and Culture, German Stories, American Jewish Life | 90 minutes | English and German (with subtitles)

Martin Goldsmith never knew what happened to his parents before they escaped from Germany in 1941. Over a weekend, he confronts his father, and we are brought back to the complex and confusing 1930s. His parents, talented musicians, are only able to perform as members of the Jewish Cultural Federation, a bizarre propaganda organization fully controlled by the Reich Chamber of Culture.

Featuring Bruno Ganz as Goldsmith's father in one of his last performances, this film to all intents and purposes seems like a documentary, but is in fact a masterful recreation of Goldsmith's book "Winter Journey."

MATURE LANGUAGE



Aulcie

CLOSING NIGHT | THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12

GATES OPEN: 6:45 PM | GATES CLOSE: 7:30 PM DELL JEWISH COMMUNITY CAMPUS LOWER FIELD

Director: Dani Menkin

USA & Israel | 2020 | Documentary, Sports, Biography, Israel, Social Justice | 72 minutes | English and Hebrew (with subtitles) The inspiring story of Aulcie Perry, an Israeli basketball legend recruited in Harlem in 1976, who went on to lead Maccabi Tel Aviv to an upset win in the European Championship. His rise to fame was precipitous, and his relationship with supermodel Tami Ben Ami became the subject of relentless media attention, solidifying his status as one of Israel's biggest stars. Aulcie Perry converted to Judaism, adopted the Hebrew name Elisha Ben Avraham, and became an

Israeli citizen. But behind the scenes, he had a growing drug addiction that culminated in his arrest and imprisonment. Since his release he has committed himself to uplifting those suffering from drug abuse and addiction. He remains a beloved Israeli sports figure. Menkin's documentary tells the story of this legendary athlete and his amazing journey of redemption.

MATURE LANGUAGE, DRUG USE FILM FOLLOWED BY LIVE FILMMAKER Q&A



When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit

Director: Caroline Link

Germany, Switzerland | 2019 | Family Friendly, Holocaust and WWII, Anti-Semitism, Arts and Culture, Drama, German Stories, Women's Stories | 119 minutes | English, German, Swiss German, French (with subtitles)

In this gentle, beautifully rendered historical family drama, a German-Jewish girl takes her first steps into adulthood, as world events intrude on her happy, carefree existence. Nine-year-old Anna is too busy with schoolwork and friends to notice Hitler's face glaring from posters plastered all over 1933 Berlin. But when her father suddenly vanishes, and the family is secretly hurried out of Germany, Anna begins to understand life will never be the same. What follows is a courageous adventure full of fear and uncertainty, as Anna and her family navigate unfamiliar lands, and cope with the challenges of being refugees. Oscar-winning filmmaker Caroline Link directs this adaptation of Judith Kerr's semiautobiographical bestselling children's novel.

FAMILY FRIENDLY



My Name Is Sara

Director: Steven Oritt

USA | 2020 | Biography, Drama, Holocaust and WWII, Women's Stories | 111 minutes | English

The true story of Sara Goralnik, a 12- year-old Polish Jew whose entire family was killed by the Nazis in 1942. A powerful saga of courage and compassion—After a grueling escape to the Ukrainian countryside, Sara steals her Christian best friend's identity and finds refuge looking after the children of a farmer and his young wife.

Inadvertently stumbling across a dark secret behind her employer's marriage, her own predicament becomes more precarious, compounding the greatest secret she must protect: her own identity.

MATURE LANGUAGE, NUDITY, SOME INTENSE SCENES, SEXUAL CONTENT



Working Woman

Director: Michal Aviad

Israel | 2018 | Drama, Women's Stories, Israel | 93 minutes | Hebrew (with subtitles)

Orna is the mother of three young children with a husband struggling to start his own restaurant. To help support her family, Orna returns to the workplace, landing a job with a former army superior, Benny, who is now a successful real estate developer. While Orna embraces her new position and tries to balance its demands with her home life, she begins to experience escalating sexual harassment from her boss. Her rapid rise through the ranks and her increasing financial success seem to parallel a pattern of predatory behavior which brings her career and marital relationship to the brink.

MATURE THEMES, NUDITY, GRAPHIC VIOLENCE



Bukra fil Mish-Mish

Director: Tal Michael

Israel, France | 2019 | Arts and Culture, Biography, Documentary, French Stories | 73 minutes | Hebrew, French, English

Shortly after the death of his uncles, Didier Frenkel descends into the basement of their shared home and finds a treasure: an ancient archive of animated films from Egypt starring Mish-Mish Effendi, the Arab equivalent of Mickey Mouse, and others. His Jewish father and uncles created these characters but never got the attention they richly deserved. Didier begins restoring the films and unveils the story of the rise and fall of these pioneers of Arab animation. Surprisingly, Didier's mother strongly opposes this project.

FOR THE 2020 AJFF, YOUR TUCHES HAS TWO CHOICES: YOUR COUCH OR YOUR CAR SEAT.





The Day of Wrath

PART OF APFF@AJFF

Director: Jacek Raginis-Królikiewicz

Poland | 2019 | Drama, Holocaust and WWII, Polish Stories | 84 minutes | Polish (with subtitles)

In the autumn of 1943, a young Jew named Emanuel Blatt, a refugee from a nearby ghetto, appears at a Polish monastery asking for help. Nazis are punishing Poles with death for hiding Jews. An SS squadron-leader in charge of a death squad comes to the monastery. *The Day of Wrath* is a full-of-tension blend of war thriller and morality play. Written by Polish writer of Jewish origin, Roman Brandstatter, the Holocaust and hope for survival are the main themes of this movie.

MATURE LANGUAGE



This year the Austin Polish Film Festival will present three films at AJFF in what we're calling **APFF@AJFF**.

For more information on APFF, see AustinPolishFilm.com.



Army of Lovers in The Holy Land

Director: Asaf Galay

Israel | 2019 | Documentary, Arts and Culture, Biography, LGBTQ+ stories, Israeli stories | 65 minutes | English, Swedish, Hebrew (with subtitles)

Thirty years after the queer Swedish disco-pop band Army of Lovers became an international phenomenon, its Jewish frontman, Jean-Pierre Barda, embarks on a new chapter when he uproots his existence to move from Sweden to Israel. In this new documentary, director Asaf Galay joins Barda alongside his journey at the age of 50. Army of Lovers (a blend of ABBA, the B-52s, and performance art) continues to rock pride celebrations and underground club parties with its mix of high camp, daring music videos, and a motto of "More is more, less is a bore." Barda's identity-flamboyant, philosophical, and religious all at once-explores what it means to never doubt oneself.

MATURE THEMES, SEXUAL CONTENT



15 Years

Director: Yuval Hadadi

2019 | Drama, Israeli Stories, LGBTQ+ stories, Romance | 90 Minutes | Hebrew (with subtitles)

Yoav, a successful architect, has everything he's ever wanted. His lover of 15 years, Dan, is a younger lawyer who adores him. Alma is a successful artist and Yoav's best friend—she is like a mother and a sister to him.

However, when Alma announces she is pregnant, it ignites Dan's desire to become a father himself. But Dan's parental urges have the opposite effect on Yoav, who is haunted by long-buried demons.

Yoav's tight grasp on his life begins to come apart, leading to self-destructive behavior that threatens to destroy his relationship with Dan, unravel his friendship with Alma, and cost him everything.

MATURE THEMES, STRONG SEXUAL CONTENT



Dayan: The First Family

Director: Anat Goren

Israel | 2019 | Documentary, Biography, Israel, Politics | 215 minutes | Hebrew (with subtitles)

Known as "the Israeli Kennedy's," the Dayan family has been a prominent presence in Israeli politics and culture since the country's inception. In her riveting documentary series, director Anat Goren examines five generations of Israel's first family and the giant shadow cast by its famous patriarch, Moshe. Recounting their stories for the camera, various members of the clan offer an uncompromising glimpse into this Israeli dynasty, blessed with talent and charisma but plagued by depression. Producing some of the country's most famous politicians, rock stars, poets and directors, the history of the Dayans and that of the country they inhabit are inextricably bound together.

MATURE THEMES, DRUG USE



Box For Life

Director: Uri Borreda

Israel | 2017 | Documentary | Anti-Semitism, Biography, Documentary, French Stories, Holocaust and WWII, Sports, Israel | 60 minutes | Hebrew and French (with subtitles)

Noah Klieger, was a French Jewish teenager during WWII. He lay on the beach of Dunkirk when hundreds of thousands of British soldiers were evacuated to Britain. He smuggled Jewish children from Belgium to Switzerland. He was captured by the Germans and sent to the Auschwitz death camp. When he arrived there, he claimed himself as a boxer which saved his life. He was the last remnant of the boxing team of Auschwitz death camp, the oldest active journalist in the world, and a crew member of the ship "Exodus - 1947." In the film, Noah returns for the first time to the places that marked his life. Noah Klieger is an example of courage, optimism and resilience.

SOME SCENES OF THE HOLOCAUST

BEST OF FEST PAST

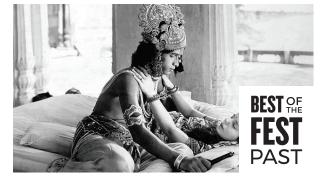
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FREE SHORT FILMS



100 Faces 🔀

Director: Benjamin Till

UK | 2018 | Musical documentary, Family Friendly Short | 12 minutes | English, Hebrew, Yiddish (with subtitles)

Composer Benjamin Till explores what it means to be British and Jewish in this quirky and heartwarming musical film. Till set about finding 100 British Jews, one born in every year between 1918 and 2017. Each scene features a person who is a year older than in the prior scene, reflecting the true celebration of the diversity of Jewish people. A "musical postcard from British Jewry to the rest of the world."

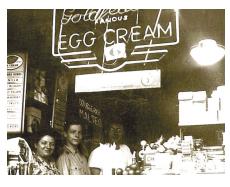


Stranger/Sister

Director: Kirsten Kelly and Katie Taber

USA | 2020 | Documentary, Women's Stories, American Jewish Life | 39 minutes | English, Hebrew, Arabic

The US is experiencing a surge in hate crimes. **Stranger/Sister** is the story of two ordinary women, one Muslim and one Jewish, who dare to believe they can join hands to stop the wave of hate. Overcoming a long history of distrust between their two religions, they build a movement that turns strangers into sisters. Following women from Sisterhood chapters in Austin, Chicago, and across the nation, the Sisters build a powerful network of hope in a time of chaos and hate.



Egg Cream 😵

Directors: Nora Miller, Peter Miller

USA | 2018 | American Jewish Life, Documentary, Family Friendly, Short | 15 Minutes | English

The Egg Cream contains neither eggs nor cream - It was a product of necessity and hardship, but a source of joy and sweetness. Through archival images and a tour of egg cream establishments led by the filmmaker and his young daughter, the film examines the Jewish experience in America and the mythology of a simpler time.



The Execution of Memory

Director: Gabi Bania

Poland | 2020 | Arts and Culture, Family Friendly, Polish Stories, Holocaust and WWII, animation | 13 minutes | Polish (with subtitles)

A screen adaptation of Jerzy Ficowski's poem under the same title from the volume "Reading of Ashes," that is devoted to the subject of the Holocaust and World War II. The poetry volume was published on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising.

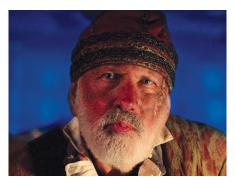


L'Dor V'Dor

Director: Michael Tobin

Canada | 2019 | American Jewish Life, Drama, short | 18 minutes | English

What does it means to be Jewish in the modern world? Inspired by real-life events, the film witnesses a son's encounter with his father after telling him that he is about to have a baby with his non-Jewish partner. The stoic father makes an urgent case to practice traditions that the anxious son finds troubling. As the bubbling turns to a boil, they both realize that they are but two parts of a much greater whole.



The Pirate Captain Toledano

Director: Arnon Z. Shorr

2017 | Dramatic Stories, Family Friendly, Funny Story, adventure | 10 minutes | English, Ladino, Hebrew (with subtitles)

Pirate Captain Toledano interrogates a stowaway, a refugee from the Spanish Inquisition. The lad wants to become a pirate to plunder Spanish ships. The Captain must decide whether to make the stowaway a pirate, or to make him walk the plank.



On The Beaches

Director: Luke Rodgers

2019 | Family Friendly, Comedic Story, Holocaust and WWII, Women's Stories, Biography | 18 minutes | English

England, 1933. After running away from home, Kitty and her brother David cheer themselves up by playing soldiers. But their game takes an unexpected turn when they discover a suspicious German hiding in a clifftop hut. The man is a Jewish refugee by the name of Albert Einstein.



The Tattooed Torah

Director: Marc Bennett

2019 | American Jewish Life, Drama, Family Friendly, Holocaust and WWII, animated, Arts and Culture | 21 minutes | English

Marvell Ginsburg's renowned children's book has been educating young children about the Holocaust for generations, telling the true story of the rescue and restoration of a small Torah from Czechoslovakia. This is now an animated film, narrated by Ed Asner, that brings illustrator Martin Lemelman's rich artwork to life and allows this story of redemption to reach a much broader audience.

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