

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Dear Friends,

I am so excited to invite you to join us for the 2025 Hong Kong Jewish Film Festival. During these difficult times the Festival's mission feels more important than ever — to affirm our Jewish identity and foster understanding through the universal language of cinema.

This year's Festival opens on Saturday, November 8th at Emperor Cinemas Times Square with the charming and deeply human Israeli drama, *Soda*. We are thrilled to welcome to Hong Kong the film's stars Lior Raz and Rotem Sela as well as its director Erez Tadmor — whose film *Matchmaking 2* will also be featured during the Festival.

Opening Night will include the world premier of *Cat Street Torah*, a short hand-drawn animated film co-produced by the Hong Kong Jewish Film Festival, which relates a startling local story.

The Festival continues through Sunday, November 16th, at the Emperor Cinemas Entertainment Building in Central, and at Golden Scene Cinema in Kennedy Town, with a wide-ranging program that reflects the richness of Jewish cinema today. Join us throughout the week for thought-provoking documentaries, bold dramas, comedies, and films that celebrate the Jewish people.

In honor of the Festival founder, the late Howard Elias, and in recognition of his life and the contribution he made to our community, our annual award for Best Feature will now be named: The Howard Elias Award for Best Feature.

As always, I want to thank our sponsors, supporters, Board Members, Viewing Committee, and the many volunteers who make this Festival possible. Most of all, I want to thank you — our audience — for your curiosity, your open hearts, and your commitment to keeping these stories alive.

Eli Bitan

Chairman, Hong Kong Jewish Film Festival

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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A very special thank you to Sharon Cooper, Webmaster Extraordinaire. Huge thanks to Josh Kahan, our very professional Trailer Creator and Editor. Special thanks to Sharon Tomtom Ledell and also Evgeni Sheinkar.

Thank you to Shani Brownstein, Festival Producer.

Additional thanks to Golden Scene Cinema, Emperor Cinemas, and Neill Morgan, Daniel Tse and the whole JCC Team. We thank our sponsors and participating organizations for their generous support.

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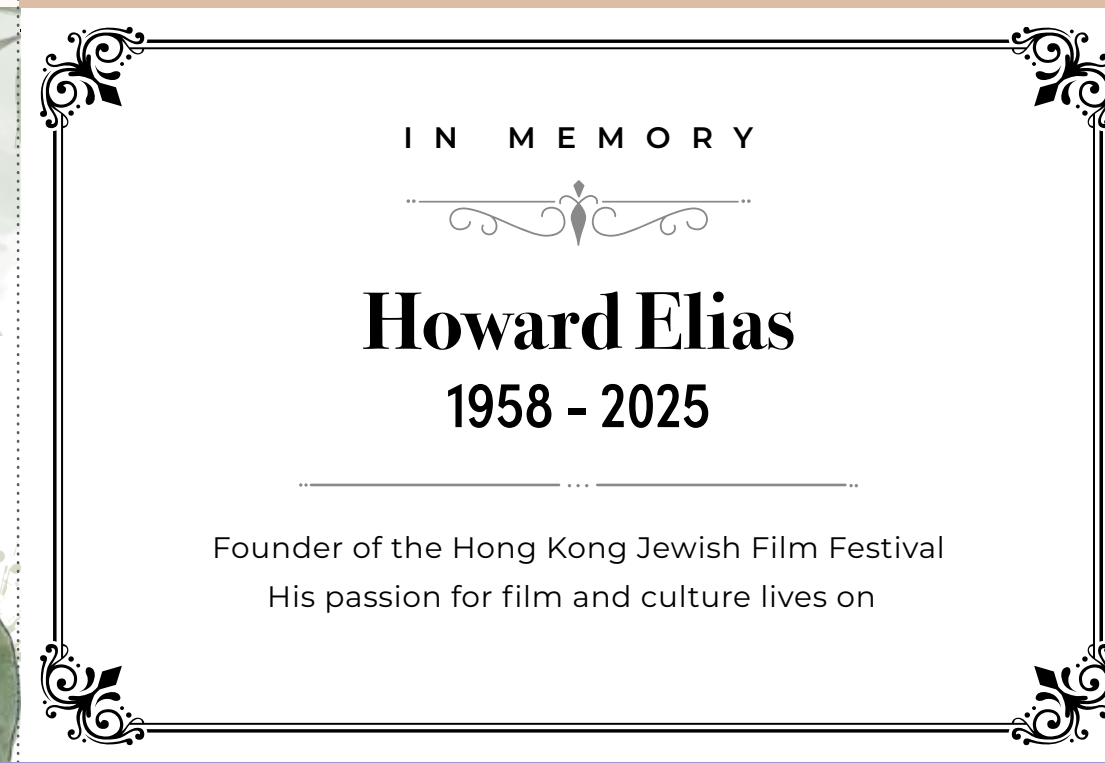


CONSULATE SUPPORT



Mazel Tov to The Hong Kong Jewish Film Festival's screening of wonderful Jewish films for 26 years!

Robert L. Meyer



OUR SUPPORTERS

Without the support of the following people and organisations, the Hong Kong Jewish Film Festival would just be a dream.

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TICKETING INFORMATION

Visit www.hkjff.org to book tickets or see below:

Opening Night will take place at Emperor Cinemas Times Square

Address: 13/F, Times Square, 1 Matheson Street, Causeway Bay, Hong Kong

To Purchase Tickets: <https://hkmovie6.com/> click on 'Emperor Cinemas (Times Square)' or on HKMovie application and click into 'Emperor Cinemas (Times Square)'

SCREENINGS WILL ALSO TAKE PLACE AT:

Emperor Cinemas Entertainment Building
3-4/F, Entertainment Building, 30 Queen's Road Central, Central, Hong Kong

To Purchase Tickets: <https://hkmovie6.com/> click on 'Emperor Cinemas (Entertainment Building)' or on HKMovie application and click into 'Emperor Cinemas (Entertainment Building)'

Golden Scene Cinema
2 Catchick St, Kennedy Town, Hong Kong

To Purchase Tickets: <https://hkmovie6.com/> click on 'Golden Scene Cinema' or on HKMovie application and click into 'Golden Scene Cinema'

HK\$120
INDIVIDUAL
TICKET

HK\$100
STUDENT/SENIOR
TICKET

MACHER PASS
Access to all films

HK\$1,800

OPENING NIGHT

HK\$380
ADULTS

HK\$280
STUDENTS

Includes film and entry to post-screening party

FILM SCHEDULE	
SATURDAY / NOV 8 7:30 PM	EMPEROR CINEMAS TIMES SQUARE <i>Soda</i> <i>Cat Street Torah</i> (Short)
SUNDAY / NOV 9 1:00 PM 2:45 PM 4:30 PM 6:00 PM 7:50 PM	GOLDEN SCENE CINEMA <i>The Splendours and Miseries of the Camondo family</i> <i>Marathon Mom</i> <i>Poland Versus History</i> <i>Elie Wiesel: Soul on Fire</i> <i>Bad Shabbos</i>
MONDAY / NOV 10 7:00 PM 8:15 PM	EMPEROR CINEMAS ENTERTAINMENT BUILDING <i>Cookies For Life</i> <i>Matchmaking 2</i>
TUESDAY / NOV 11 7:00 PM 8:50 PM	EMPEROR CINEMAS TIMES SQUARE <i>All I Had Was Nothingness</i> <i>Bliss</i>
WEDNESDAY / NOV 12 7:00 PM 8:45 PM	EMPEROR CINEMAS ENTERTAINMENT BUILDING <i>Never Alone</i> September 5
THURSDAY / NOV 13 7:00 PM 9:00 PM	EMPEROR CINEMAS ENTERTAINMENT BUILDING <i>Pink Lady</i> <i>Tatami</i>
SATURDAY / NOV 15 7:30 PM 9:15 PM	GOLDEN SCENE CINEMA <i>Of Dogs and Men</i> <i>Ma Mere, Dieu et Sylvie Vartan</i> (Once Upon My Mother)
SUNDAY / NOV 16 1:00 PM 3:00 PM 4:50 PM 6:30 PM 8:30 PM	GOLDEN SCENE CINEMA <i>The Stamp Thief</i> <i>The Road Between Us:</i> <i>The Ultimate Rescue</i> <i>Swedishkayt: YidLife Crisis in Stockholm</i> <i>Soul of a Nation</i> <i>The Property</i>
HONG KONG JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL	
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HONG KONG JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL 2025



SODA

Director: EREZ TADMOR
ISRAEL | 2024 | DRAMA
Hebrew with English subtitles | 96 mins

8 NOV / SATURDAY @ 7:30PM at
Emperor Cinemas Times Square

Set in a 1954 Israeli village still reeling from the trauma of the War, seamstress Eva (Rotem Sela) arrives with her young daughter in search of a fresh start. She soon captivates Shalom (Fauda's Lior Raz), a former partisan fighter. But when whispers emerge that Eva may have been a Kapo (a privileged prisoner who cruelly oversaw fellow inmates) in the camps, the fragile bond between them threatens to unravel.

Lior Raz, Rotem Sela and Erez Tadmor will be in attendance.

Sponsored by Anonymous

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CAT STREET TORAH

Director: EVA COHEN
HONG KONG | 2025 | SHORT
ANIMATION, HISTORY
English | 10 mins

8 NOV / SATURDAY @ 7:30PM at
Emperor Cinemas Times Square

The HKJFF is proud to screen its debut production, and world premiere of Cat Street Torah, a short animated film that traces the journey of the Jewish community along the Silk Road, as revealed through a remarkable local story. In the 1970s, authentic Torah scrolls were discovered at Hong Kong's Cat Street Antique Market and later returned to the community for preservation. The film sheds light on a fascinating chapter of Jewish history in Asia.

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THE SPLENDOURS AND MISERIES OF THE CAMONDO FAMILY

Director: RUTH ZYLBERMAN
FRANCE | 2025 | DOCUMENTARY, HISTORY
French & English with English subtitles | 87 mins

9 NOV / SUNDAY @ 1:00PM at Golden Scene Cinema

Tracing the rise and tragic fall of the prominent Camondo family—once known as the "Rothschilts of the East"—this documentary traces their 19th century origins on the Bosphorus to their lavish life in Belle Époque France. Through intimate archival footage, family heirlooms, and visits to the Musée Nissim de Camondo, The Splendours and Miseries of the Camondo Family reveals how this Ottoman-Jewish dynasty built an extraordinary art collection, while sadly never being able to enjoy the fruits of their labour.

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MARATHON MOM

Directors: OREN ROSENFELD &
REBECCA SHORE
ISRAEL | 2025 | DOCUMENTARY
English | 90 mins

9 NOV / SUNDAY @ 2:45PM at Golden Scene Cinema

Marathon Mom follows Beatie Deutsch, an Orthodox mother of five living in Jerusalem, as she pursues an extraordinary dream: to become an Olympic marathon runner. Defying expectations within her community and challenging conventional ideas of motherhood, modesty, and athleticism, Beatie emerges as a determined, and deeply spiritual athlete. She becomes a role model not only for religious women, but for anyone chasing a goal against the odds. Marathon Mom is a story of faith, family, and the courage to run your own race.

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POLAND VERSUS HISTORY

Director: NADINE BELKACEMI
FRANCE | 2024 | DOCUMENTARY, HISTORY
French with English subtitles | 70 mins

9 NOV / SUNDAY @ 4:30PM at Golden Scene Cinema

Acclaimed historian Jan T. Gross becomes a lightning rod in Poland's reckoning with the past when he reveals that the 1941 Jedwabne pogrom—long blamed on Nazis—was carried out by local residents. His findings spark political backlash and a culture war, as scholars challenge decades of silence, denial, and sanitized history against a state determined to defend its heroic national narrative.

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ELIE WIESEL: SOUL ON FIRE

Director: OREN RUDAVSKY
USA | 2024 | DOCUMENTARY
English, French & German with
English subtitles | 87 mins

9 NOV / SUNDAY @ 6:00PM at Golden Scene Cinema

Elie Wiesel: Soul on Fire is a portrait of one of the most important moral voices of the 20th century. Told largely through Wiesel's own words and eloquent voice, the documentary traces his journey from Holocaust survivor to Nobel Peace Prize-winning writer, teacher, and global conscience. With rare access to personal archives, original interviews, and hand-painted animation, the filmmaker reveals the private depths of a man known to the world as a witness to genocide and champion of human rights. This film delves beyond the public figure to reveal the man behind the words.

Sponsored by The Ohel Leah Synagogue Charity Trust

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BAD SHABBOS

Director: DANIEL ROBBINS
USA | 2024 | COMEDY
English | 84 mins

9 NOV / SUNDAY @ 7:50PM at Golden Scene Cinema

Kyra Sedgwick and Method Man lead a stellar ensemble in this darkly hilarious comedy set on the Upper West Side, the quintessential progressive New York Jewish neighborhood. When David and his non-Jewish fiancée introduce their families over a Friday night meal, what's meant to be a warm family shabbos gathering spirals into total chaos after a sudden mishap. Bad Shabbos turns one family's sacred ritual into a wildly funny night of cover-ups, confusion, and unexpected connection. The film debuted at the Tribeca Film Festival.

Audience Award Tribeca Film Festival 2024

Sponsored by The Zion Family

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COOKIES FOR LIFE

Director: ZOHAR WAGNER
ISRAEL | 2024 | DOCUDRAMA,
REENACTMENT
Hebrew & Arabic with English subtitles | 53 mins

10 NOV / MONDAY @ 7:00PM at
Emperor Cinemas Entertainment Building

On October 7th at 6:29 a.m. Hamas launched a surprise attack on Israel. 15 militants came to the town of Ofakim and killed 27 civilians and 5 police officers. In this hybrid film, filmmaker Zohar Wagner ("Savoy") tells the story of Rachel Edri, kept hostage in her home, along with her husband David. Using reenactments of the events in the house, which has been recreated as an exact replica, and with Rachel acting as "director" of her own scenes, Cookies for Life shows how Rachel used her resourcefulness, cunning, sense of humor and improvisation skills to survive the 20 hour attack.

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MATCHMAKING 2

Director: EREZ TADMOR
ISRAEL | 2024 | COMEDY
Hebrew with English subtitles | 110 mins

10 NOV / MONDAY @ 8:15PM at
Emperor Cinemas Entertainment Building

This spirited sequel to the hit Israeli comedy, Matchmaking 2 follows Moti Bernstein—the perfect Yeshiva student, beloved by rabbis and mothers alike—as he dives deeper into the world of Orthodox dating. With all the right credentials, Moti should have no trouble finding a match. But when he fails for the one girl deemed entirely off-limits, he's forced to choose between tradition and his heart. With warmth and witty charm, Matchmaking 2 explores love, faith, and the courage to break the rules. This stand alone story will appeal to both first time viewers and fans of the original film.

Director Erez Tadmor will be in attendance.

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ALL I HAD WAS NOTHINGNESS

Director: GUILLAUME RIBOT
FRANCE | 2025 | DOCUMENTARY
French, English, German with English subtitles | 94 mins

11 NOV / TUESDAY @ 7:00PM at
Emperor Cinemas Times Square

All I Had Was Nothingness is a reflection on Claude Lanzmann's landmark Holocaust documentary Shoah, on its 40th anniversary. Revealing the untold story behind Shoah's making, using previously unseen footage from the masterpiece, and Lanzmann's own voice, the film examines the process of giving voice to Holocaust memory. What emerges is an intimate portrait of a filmmaker and a meditation on the ethics of representation.

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BLISS

Director: SHEMI ZARHIN
ISRAEL | 2024 | DRAMA
Hebrew & Arabic with English subtitles | 88 mins

11 NOV / TUESDAY @ 8:50PM at
Emperor Cinemas Times Square

In Bliss, veteran filmmaker Shemi Zarhin tells the story of a long-married couple grappling with love, aging, and unresolved pasts. Sassi (Sasson Gabay, Shtisel), left impotent after surgery, clings to his bond with Effi (Asi Levi, In Therapy), who believes their emotional connection is enough—until unexpected visitors unsettle their fragile balance. When their troubled grandson returns and a figure from Effi's past reappears, long-buried tensions come to light. Blending humor and heartbreak, Bliss explores how love endures—and evolves—under pressure.

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NEVER ALONE

Director: KLAUS HÄRÖ
FINLAND | 2024 | DRAMA, HISTORY
Swedish, Yiddish, Russian, Hebrew, English,
Finnish & German with English subtitles | 85 mins

12 NOV / WEDNESDAY @ 7:00PM at
Emperor Cinemas Entertainment Building

Never Alone sheds light on a hidden chapter of Holocaust history. Set in Finland during the early 1940s, as the country reluctantly aligns with Nazi Germany, the film follows Abraham Stiller, a charismatic Jewish leader and philanthropist in Helsinki. When refugees who once saw Finland as a safe haven begin disappearing into forced labor camps, Stiller refuses to stay silent. Confronted by mounting political pressure and threats from the State Police, he embarks on a dangerous campaign to protect the vulnerable and expose the truth. A powerful true story of courage and conscience.

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SEPTEMBER 5

Director: TIM FEHLBAUM
GERMANY | 2024 | DRAMA, SUSPENSE, HISTORY
English, German & Hebrew with English subtitles | 95 mins

12 NOV / WEDNESDAY @ 8:45PM at
Emperor Cinemas Entertainment Building

September 5 is a gripping newsroom thriller set during the 1972 Munich Olympics, when Palestinian terrorists took Israeli athletes hostage. As the world watches in horror, ABC Sports chief Roone Arledge (Peter Sarsgaard) and his team scramble to cover the unfolding crisis live, navigating ethical dilemmas, network rivalries, and real-time chaos. Set almost entirely in a broadcast control room, this Oscar nominated film explores the birth of modern live news and the moral weight of reporting tragedy as it happens.

Sponsored by The Green Family

Oscar nomination Best Original Screenplay 2025

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PINK LADY

Director: NIR BERGMAN
ISRAEL, ITALY | 2024 | DRAMA
Hebrew with English subtitles | 106 mins

13 NOV / THURSDAY @ 7:00PM at
Emperor Cinemas Entertainment Building

Pink Lady is a tender drama set in Jerusalem's ultra-Orthodox community. Bati appears to have the perfect life—devoted husband, three children, strong faith—until her world is shaken by her husband Lazer's secret affair. As he seeks a "cure," Bati embarks on a path of self-discovery, challenging tradition, love, and identity in this heartfelt story.

Sponsored by Sharon Ser

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TATAMI

Director: GUY NATTIV & ZAR AMIR
GEORGIA, USA, UK & ISRAEL | 2023 | DRAMA, SUSPENSE
English & Farsi with English subtitles | 105 mins

13 NOV / THURSDAY @ 9:00PM at
Emperor Cinemas Entertainment Building

Tatami is an emotionally charged drama that explores the human cost of political agendas. When Iranian judoka Leila travels to the World Championships aiming to make history, she's ordered by her government to withdraw rather than risk facing an Israeli opponent. Caught between duty, fear, and personal conviction, Leila's decision threatens her freedom, her family's safety, and her bond with her coach. Co-directed by Iranian and Israeli filmmakers, and shot in stark black and white, Tatami examines the weight of resistance and the quiet courage of those who refuse to comply.

Sponsored by Robert Meyer

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OF DOGS AND MEN

Director: DANI ROSENBERG
ISRAEL | 2024 | DOCUDRAMA
Hebrew & English with English subtitles | 82 mins

15 NOV / SATURDAY @ 7:30PM at
Golden Scene Cinema

In the wake of the October 7th Hamas attack, 16-year-old Dar returns to her devastated kibbutz, Nir Oz, in search of her missing dog, Shula. As she walks through ruins and meets survivors, Dar navigates her own grief and trauma, as she encounters voices torn between vengeance and forgiveness. Filmed in late October 2023, Of Dogs and Men features performances by actual survivors of the attack on Kibbutz Nir Oz.

Sponsored by Shirley Dirkin & Perry Frey

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MA MERE, DIEU ET SYLVIE VARTAN (ONCE UPON MY MOTHER)

Director: KEN SCOTT
FRANCE, CANADA | 2025 | DRAMA
French with English subtitles | 102 mins

15 NOV / SATURDAY @ 9:15PM at
Golden Scene Cinema

A vibrant dramedy, Ma Mère, Dieu et Sylvie Vartan explores the fierce, sometimes overbearing love between a Moroccan Jewish mother and her disabled son. In 1960s France, Esther refuses to accept Roland's medical fate, while he finds escape and identity through the music of Sylvie Vartan. Blending nostalgia, humor, and tenderness, Ken Scott paints a portrait of maternal devotion that is as infuriating as it is inspiring.

Sponsored by Rue Madame Group

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THE STAMP THIEF

Director: DAN STURMAN
USA | 2025 | DOCUMENTARY
English | 104 mins

16 NOV / SUNDAY @ 1:00PM at Golden Scene Cinema

Part detective story, part heist film, part history we must never forget, The Stamp Thief uncovers a little-known chapter of Holocaust history. The film follows former Seinfeld producer Gary Gilbert as he sets out to expose a chilling tale: that a Nazi officer stole valuable stamp collections from concentration camp victims and buried them in a Polish town. Posing as a filmmaker shooting a fictional movie, Gilbert is on a mission to find the missing stamps and return them to their rightful heirs.

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THE ROAD BETWEEN US: THE ULTIMATE RESCUE

Director: BARRY AVRICH

CANADA | 2025 | DOCUMENTARY
English, Hebrew, Arabic
with English subtitles | 95 mins

16 NOV / SUNDAY @ 3:00PM at Golden Scene Cinema

On October 7, 2023, retired Israeli general Noam Tibon received a desperate text from his son: terrorists had stormed his home, and he, his wife, and their two young daughters feared for their lives. With no time to spare, Noam and his wife, Gali, embarked on a ten-hour mission across a country under siege to save their family. Directed by acclaimed Canadian filmmaker Barry Avrich, the film retraces every step of that day, blending intimate firsthand testimony with the raw urgency of a survival thriller. The Road Between Us: The Ultimate Rescue is both a gripping cinematic retelling of an extraordinary rescue and an unflinching look at the failures and resilience revealed on October 7.

This film contains footage of the events of October 7, 2023. Viewer discretion is advised.

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SWEDISHKAYT: YIDLIFE CRISIS IN STOCKHOLM

Director: ELI BATALION & JAMIE ELMAN
CANADA | 2025 | DRAMA

English, Yiddish & Swedish with English subtitles | 77 mins

16 NOV / SUNDAY @ 4:50PM at Golden Scene Cinema

Canadian comedy duo YidLife Crisis—Eli Batalion and Jamie Elman—bring their Yiddish-infused lens to an unexpected locale: Stockholm. Part travelogue, part cultural exploration, part comedy special, Swedishkayt is a hilarious deep dive into Swedish Jewish life, past and present. Through quirky encounters, historical surprises, and on-the-fly discoveries—including the fact that Yiddish is a protected minority language in Sweden—the pair explore 250 years of Jewish presence in the country, from the first immigrants to today's thriving but often overlooked community.

In Memory of the HKJFF Founder, Howard Elias

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SOUL OF A NATION

Director: JONATHAN JAKUBOWICZ
ISRAEL & USA | 2025 | DOCUMENTARY
Hebrew & English with English subtitles | 105 mins

16 NOV / SUNDAY @ 6:30PM at Golden Scene Cinema

Soul of a Nation documents the widespread protests that created political upheaval and deep divisions across Israel in early 2023 in response to proposed changes to the judicial system. The nation found itself shaken and on the brink of collapse. Amid this turmoil, triggered by the horrific October 7 attack later that year, a profound and inspiring transformation took place. What seemed like a breaking point ignited an extraordinary movement of solidarity, uniting Israelis in ways never before seen.

Audience Award - Miami Jewish Film Festival

SUPPORTED BY



THE PROPERTY

Director: DANA MODAN

ISRAEL & POLAND | 2024 | DRAMA, COMEDY
Hebrew with English subtitles | 108 mins

16 NOV / SUNDAY @ 8:30PM at Golden Scene Cinema

Regina, a sharp-witted Holocaust survivor, returns to Poland with her granddaughter Mika to reclaim property lost during the war. When Regina unexpectedly decides to abandon the mission Mika is left lost and confused. As an irritating distant relative keeps appearing at every turn, Mika finds herself drawn to a charming local guide. Regina seizes the opportunity to pursue her own hidden agenda: finding her long-lost love, from whom she was separated seventy years ago. The Property starring Rivka Michaeli is based on Rutu Modan's acclaimed graphic novel.

Nominated for 4 Ophirs (the Israeli Academy Awards)

Sponsored by The Dorfman Family

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