

HONG KONG JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL
香港猶太電影節

2026
7-15 NOVEMBER

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Dear Friends,

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to the 2026 Hong Kong Jewish Film Festival.

At a time when understanding across cultures and communities feels more important than ever, our Festival continues its mission of bringing audiences together through the power of Jewish storytelling and the universal language of cinema. For 27 years, the Festival has provided a window into Jewish life, history and culture, while creating opportunities for dialogue, connection and shared experiences.

We are delighted to open this year's Festival on Saturday, 7 November, at 7:30 PM at Emperor Cinemas Times Square with *La Bonne Étoile (Lucky Star)*, a highly entertaining and darkly comic drama. Blending humor with moral complexity, the film offers a fresh and deeply human perspective on survival during one of history's darkest chapters. A live Q&A with the film's director, Pascal Elbé, will follow the screening.

This year's program features compelling documentaries, powerful dramas, heartwarming comedies and inspiring stories from around the world, celebrating the richness and diversity of Jewish life and experience.

Among this year's highlights are three remarkable Israeli films—*Oxygen*, *Lost in the Territories* and *The Sea*—which offer personal perspectives on contemporary Israel through the lived experiences of people from different ethnic, religious and political communities. Together, these films remind us that Israeli society is diverse and complex, and that cinema can help us see beyond headlines to the people and stories behind them.

We are also delighted to present the brand new film, *Matchmaking 3* on Saturday, 14 November, at 7:30 PM at Emperor Cinemas Times Square. The latest comedy from Festival favorite Erez Tadmor, who joined us in Hong Kong last year, *Matchmaking 3* is the third installment in his hugely popular ultra-Orthodox romantic comedy series.

I hope you will join us for this year's Festival and enjoy our wonderful films, filmmakers and special guests.

Eli Bitan

Chairman, Hong Kong Jewish Film Festival

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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A very special thank you to Sharon Cooper, Webmaster Extraordinaire. Thank you to Shani Brownstein, Festival Producer. Special thanks to Josh Kahan, our professional Trailer Producer and to Evgeni Sheinkar for our Security Team.

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

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Sharon Ser, along with her partners Rita Ku and Sindy Wong at Rita Ku & Ser, are proud and honored to support the Hong Kong Jewish Film Festival 2026. We are delighted to be part of this meaningful and culturally significant event.



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Mazel Tov to the Hong Kong Jewish Film Festival on its 27th edition.

Wishing you another year of
inspiring films, meaningful conversations,
and continued success.

Robert L. Meyer

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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 Street, Kennedy Town, Hong Kong

To Purchase Tickets:
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HK\$120
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HK\$1,800

OPENING NIGHT

HK\$380
ADULTS

HK\$280
STUDENTS

Includes film and entry to post-screening party

FILM SCHEDULE

THURSDAY / NOV 5
7:30 PM

• EMPEROR CINEMAS TIMES SQUARE
To Be a Jew followed by Q&A

SATURDAY / NOV 7
7:30 PM

• EMPEROR CINEMAS TIMES SQUARE
La Bonne Étoile (Lucky Star)

SUNDAY / NOV 8
12:30 PM
2:20 PM
4:15 PM

• GOLDEN SCENE CINEMA
Raoul Wallenberg: Missing in Action
Labors of Love:
The Life and Legacy of Henriette Szold
Butcher's Stain
Not My Weekend
Beshert
Half a Date
Babka
Double Happiness
On Thin Ice
Oxygen

MONDAY / NOV 9
7:00 PM
9:15 PM

• EMPEROR CINEMAS ENTERTAINMENT BUILDING
Ice Cream Man
Holofiction
Book of Ruth

TUESDAY / NOV 10
7:00 PM
8:50 PM

• EMPEROR CINEMAS ENTERTAINMENT BUILDING
Love, Statistically Speaking
Frontera

WEDNESDAY / NOV 11
7:00 PM
9:00 PM

• EMPEROR CINEMAS ENTERTAINMENT BUILDING
To Kill a Nazi
Rosenthal

THURSDAY / NOV 12
7:00 PM
8:50 PM

• EMPEROR CINEMAS ENTERTAINMENT BUILDING
The Sea
Fantasy Life

SATURDAY / NOV 14
7:30 PM
9:50 PM

• EMPEROR CINEMAS TIMES SQUARE
Matchmaking 3 followed by Q&A
Lost in Territories

SUNDAY / NOV 15
12:30 PM
2:15 PM
4:20 PM
6:10 PM
8:00 PM

• GOLDEN SCENE CINEMA
Unraveling UNRWA
We Met at Grossinger's
Nuremberg 45
The Shoshani Riddle
Just an Illusion

HONG KONG
JEWISH FILM
FESTIVAL

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HONG KONG JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL 2026

LA BONNE ÉTOILE (LUCKY STAR)

7 NOV / SATURDAY @ 7:30 PM at Emperor Cinemas Times Square
FRANCE | 2025 | COMEDY & DRAMA
French with English subtitles | 104 mins
Director: Pascal Elbé



When a struggling French deserter (Benoit Poelvoorde) convinces his family to pose as Jews in order to escape Nazi-occupied France for the Free Zone, what begins as an act of desperation gradually becomes a confrontation with his own ignorance and antisemitism. Blending humor with moral complexity and reminiscent of films such as *Life Is Beautiful* and *Jojo Rabbit*, *La Bonne Étoile* explores how ordinary people are transformed by history, using humor as a lens to reflect on morality and survival. Director Pascal Elbé will be present and conduct a live Q&A following the film.

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RAOUL WALLENBERG: MISSING INACTION

8 NOV / SUNDAY @ 12:30 PM at Golden Scene Cinema
USA | 2025 | DOCUMENTARY & HISTORY
English, Russian, Swedish with English subtitles | 89 mins
Directors: Brian Malt & Brad Rothschild



Raoul Wallenberg, the diplomat and scion of Sweden's powerful Wallenberg banking dynasty, saved tens of thousands of Hungarian Jews during the Holocaust. By issuing protective passports and establishing safe houses he became one of the greatest humanitarian figures of the 20th century. But after being taken into Soviet custody in the 1940s, Wallenberg vanished without explanation. For the first time, this gripping documentary uncovers the chilling fate of a man who saved a generation, yet tragically could not save himself.

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LABORS OF LOVE: THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF HENRIETTA SZOLD

8 NOV / SUNDAY @ 2:20 PM at Golden Scene Cinema
USA | 2025 | DOCUMENTARY & BIOGRAPHY
English, Hebrew, Arabic with English subtitles | 79 mins
Director: Abby Ginzberg



Henrietta Szold was one of the most influential yet under-recognized American Jewish women of the 20th century. She co-founded Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization, and established Hadassah Hospital in Palestine, committed to treating Arabs and Jews equally. She later led Youth Aliyah, rescuing 11,000 Jewish children from Nazi Europe. Directed by Peabody Award winner Abby Ginzberg, this documentary is a long-overdue portrait of a visionary whose compassion and leadership changed history.

Sponsored by **The Kalifowitz Family**
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ON THIN ICE

8 NOV / SUNDAY @ 6:40 PM at Golden Scene Cinema
ISRAEL | 2025 | DOCUMENTARY
Hebrew, Arabic with English subtitles | 92 mins
Directors: Irit Hod & Udi Kalinski



Amid the October 7 war and rising tensions along the Syrian border, the long-frozen identity of the Golan Heights Druze reaches a historic breaking point. The film follows Aya, a 19-year-old ice hockey player dreaming of representing Israel on the international stage, and her uncle Ayoub, who views her choice to accept an Israeli passport as a betrayal of their Syrian roots. Filmed over four years with rare access, *On Thin Ice* captures the collapse of a 55-year-old status quo at the exact moment the border becomes a global flashpoint.

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OXYGEN

8 NOV / SUNDAY @ 8:30 PM at Golden Scene Cinema
ISRAEL | 2025 | DRAMA
Hebrew with English subtitles | 93 mins
Director: Netalie Braun



Anat, a schoolteacher whose private world is shaped by language and imagination, is counting down the days to her son Idot's army discharge. On the day he is due home, a soldier is abducted on the Lebanese border and a new war erupts, which changes everything. As the condition of her shell-shocked father, Yakov, starts to deteriorate, she makes a radical maternal choice that challenges not only her family, but the logic of war itself. Asian Premiere.

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THE ICE CREAM MAN

9 NOV / MONDAY @ 7:30 PM at Emperor Cinemas Entertainment Building
NETHERLANDS | 2024 | SHORT DRAMA | English | 33 mins
Director: Robert Moniot



Shortly after the Nazi invasion of the Netherlands, a popular Jewish ice cream parlor owner finds himself targeted by the infamous "Butcher of Lyon," Klaus Barbie. As his world crumbles, "The Ice Cream Man" must choose between resistance and death...a choice that will reverberate throughout the country.

HOLIFICION

9 NOV / MONDAY @ 7:00 PM at Emperor Cinemas Entertainment Building
AUSTRIA, GERMANY | 2025 | DOCUMENTARY
English | 85 mins
Director: Michal Kosakowski



French filmmaker Claude Lanzmann famously criticized Schindler's List, saying that "fiction is a transgression" and that "any representation of the Holocaust is prohibited." In this monumental documentary, director Michal Kosakowski explores the tension between Lanzmann's uncompromising vision and the thousands of fictional Holocaust films produced since 1938. By editing together scenes from more than 3,000 films into a captivating montage, without using narration, Kosakowski invites viewers to reflect on how movies shape our collective memory of unimaginable horrors.

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BOOK OF RUTH

9 NOV / MONDAY @ 9:15 PM at Emperor Cinemas Entertainment Building
ISRAEL | 2025 | DRAMA
Hebrew, French with English subtitles | 88 mins
Director: Esty Shushan



Book of Ruth is a powerful drama about faith, grief, and resilience. Ruth and Shmuel, a young Haredi (ultra-Orthodox Jewish) couple devoted to family and religious tradition, see their world shattered by the accidental death of their young son. As Shmuel turns inward toward religious repentance, Ruth begins to question the beliefs and social constraints that have shaped her life. Blending raw emotion with moments of quiet surrealism, the film explores love, loss, and the courage to ask difficult questions in a world where doubt is rarely allowed.

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LOVE, STATISTICALLY SPEAKING

10 NOV / TUESDAY @ 7:00 PM
at Emperor Cinemas Entertainment Building
ISRAEL | 2025 | COMEDY
Hebrew with English subtitles | 94 mins
Director: Amichai Greenberg



When Reuben, an 80-year-old actuary who trusts numbers more than people, loses both his beloved wife and her insurance money at the local swimming pool, he's reluctantly drawn into an unlikely investigation with his free-spirited granddaughter. As they navigate a cast of eccentric pool regulars, their comic misadventure becomes a heartfelt journey that proves while almost everything can be calculated, love and family never add up on paper.

Sponsored by **Sharon Ser**

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FRONTERA

10 NOV / TUESDAY @ 8:50 PM
at Emperor Cinemas Entertainment Building
SPAIN, BELGIUM | 2025 | DRAMA & HISTORY
Spanish, French, German, Catalan with English subtitles | 101 mins
Director: Judith Collé



Set in the Pyrenees during World War II, *Frontera* tells the gripping true story of a small Spanish border village caught between Franco's fascist regime and the horrors unfolding in Nazi-occupied France. When customs officer Manel Grau begins secretly helping Jewish refugees cross the mountains to safety, he and his fellow villagers are drawn into a dangerous network of resistance. Tense, heartfelt, and beautifully human, the film shines a light on the ordinary people who risked everything to save Jewish lives during one of history's darkest chapters.

Sponsored by **Judy and Michael Green**

TO KILL A NAZI

11 NOV / WEDNESDAY @ 7:00 PM at
Emperor Cinemas Entertainment Building
FRANCE, USA | 2026 | DOCUMENTARY
English, French with English subtitles | 101 mins
Director: Boaz Dvir



Jason Alexander narrates the extraordinary but largely forgotten true story of Michel Cojot. Driven by his father's murder at Auschwitz, Cojot embarks on a relentless quest to hunt down Gestapo commander Klaus Barbie, the notorious "Butcher of Lyon." After confronting Barbie in Bolivia with a loaded pistol, Cojot makes a split-second decision that will haunt him for years. His search for justice takes an astonishing turn when he and his young son become hostages aboard the hijacked Air France flight at the center of the 1976 Entebbe rescue mission.

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ROSENTHAL

11 NOV / WEDNESDAY @ 9:00 PM at
Emperor Cinemas Entertainment Building
GERMANY | 2026 | DRAMA
German with English subtitles | 92 mins
Director: Oliver Haffner



Against the backdrop of 1970's Germany, Rosenthal follows the true story of Hans Rosenthal, a beloved Jewish television game show host preparing for a live broadcast on November 9th—the 40th anniversary of Kristallnacht. While much of Germany seeks to bury its Nazi past and many German Jews try to remain unnoticed, a younger generation begins demanding that history be confronted openly. Torn between public entertainment and private remembrance, Hans must navigate a society struggling between silence, memory, and change.

Sponsored by **The Dorfman Family**

THE SEA

12 NOV / THURSDAY @ 7:00 PM at
Emperor Cinemas Entertainment Building
ISRAEL | 2026 | DRAMA
Arabic, Hebrew with English subtitles | 93 mins
Director: Shai Carmelli-Pollak



Khaled, a 12-year-old Palestinian boy from the West Bank, dreams of seeing the Mediterranean Sea for the first time. When Israeli authorities prevent him from joining his school trip there, he sets out alone on a dangerous journey across checkpoints and unfamiliar territory, while his father desperately searches for him. Along the way, the film paints a rich portrait of the diversity and complexity of contemporary Israeli society, capturing encounters across cultural, religious, and political divides. Winner of the Ophir Award for Best Film 2026.

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FANTASY LIFE

12 NOV / THURSDAY @ 8:50 PM at
Emperor Cinemas Entertainment Building
USA | 2025 | COMEDY & DRAMA | English | 91 mins
Director: Matthew Shear



After losing his job, Sam Stein, an adrift New York paralegal, stumbles into a babysitting job for his psychiatrist's grandchildren. Drawn into the chaotic orbit of a wealthy but unhappy Jewish family, Sam forms an unexpected bond with the mother, a former actress struggling with marriage, motherhood, and fading ambitions. Featuring a star-filled cast, including Amanda Peet, Judd Hirsch, Andrea Martin, Zosia Mamet and Holland Taylor, the film captures a distinctly contemporary Jewish sensibility while exploring the fragile ways people try to care for one another.

Sponsored by **Shirley Dirkin and Perry Frey**

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MATCHMAKING 3

14 NOV / SATURDAY @ 7:30 PM at Emperor Cinema Times Square
ISRAEL | 2026 | COMEDY
English, Hebrew, French with English subtitles | 98 mins
Director: Erez Tadmor



In the standalone third installment of Erez Tadmor's hit ultra-Orthodox romantic comedy franchise, young matchmaker Baruch Auerbach, desperate for money to pay for his own wedding, once again teams up with Malki, a veteran matchmaker with whom he has a strained relationship. The two travel from Bnei Brak to New York after a wealthy American Orthodox billionaire (Michael Rapaport) offers \$100,000 to anyone who can find a match for his only daughter. A warm, energetic comedy about what truly matters in life.

Sponsored by **Michael Jacobs, Michael Schreiber, and Johnny Margo**

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LOST IN TERRITORIES

14 NOV / SATURDAY @ 9:50 PM at Emperor Cinema Times Square
ISRAEL, FRANCE | 2025 | COMEDY
Hebrew, Arabic with English subtitles | 108 mins
Director: Nadav Shlomo Giladi



Lost in Territories is a darkly comic fable weaving together five interconnected, chaotic, and bizarre stories that explore the absurdities and tensions of everyday life in the West Bank — the "Wild West of the Middle East." Through encounters among soldiers, kibbutzniks, Palestinians, rabbis, imams, and ordinary civilians, the film uncovers unexpected humor and moments of humanity within a landscape shaped by uneasy coexistence.

Sponsored by **The Zion Family**

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UNRAVELING UNRWA

15 NOV / SUNDAY @ 12:30 PM at Golden Scene Cinema
ISRAEL, GERMANY | 2025 | DOCUMENTARY
Hebrew, English, Arabic with English subtitles | 88 mins
Director: Duki Dror



This provocative documentary examines the history of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA). Through interviews with former officials, scholars, journalists, and policy experts, the film explores how an organization founded as a temporary humanitarian agency evolved into a central and deeply contested force within the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, shaping Palestinian identity, international diplomacy, and regional politics across generations.

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WE MET AT GROSSINGER'S

15 NOV / SUNDAY @ 2:15 PM at Golden Scene Cinema
USA | 2025 | DOCUMENTARY | English | 104 mins
Director: Paula Eiselt



From the golden age of the Borscht Belt to its lasting influence on American culture, *We Met at Grossinger's* celebrates the legendary Catskills resort that became a haven for generations of Jewish families. The real-life inspiration for *Dirty Dancing*, Grossinger's was far more than a vacation destination—it was a vibrant center of entertainment, community, and opportunity, hosting everyone from rising comedians and celebrated athletes to political leaders and cultural icons. Through rich archival footage and lively personal stories, the film revives a vanished world while revealing how this remarkable resort helped shape Jewish American identity and left an enduring mark on the American experience.

Sponsored by **The Silverberg-Lee Family**

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NUREMBERG 45

15 NOV / SUNDAY @ 4:20 PM at Golden Scene Cinema
GERMANY | 2025 | DRAMA
German, French, English, Russian, Polish with English subtitles | 89 mins
Director: Carsten Gutschmidt



Nuremberg 45 is a hybrid film that blends dramatic storytelling with documentary filmmaking to immerse audiences in the historic trials that sought justice after the Holocaust. Inside Courtroom 600, a young Jewish court reporter and his fellow Auschwitz survivor confront painful memories, impossible moral choices, and the chilling presence of Hermann Göring, whose request for a private interview forces a choice between personal anguish and historical truth.

THE SHOSHANI RIDDLE

15 NOV / SUNDAY @ 6:10 PM at Golden Scene Cinema
ISRAEL | 2023 | DOCUMENTARY & BIOGRAPHY
English, Hebrew, French with English subtitles | 88 mins
Director: Michael Grynspan



No one knows his real name; he is known only as Mr. Shoshani. A brilliant, homeless wanderer, he captivated some of the 20th century's greatest Jewish thinkers—including Elie Wiesel and Emmanuel Levinas—with his astonishing mastery of Torah, Talmud, philosophy, mathematics, and science. Blending detective story with spiritual inquiry, this fascinating documentary travels across the globe in search of clues to the true identity of one of the most enigmatic figures in modern Jewish intellectual history.

Sponsored by **Oasis Management Company Ltd.**

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JUST AN ILLUSION

15 NOV / SUNDAY @ 8:00 PM at Golden Scene Cinema
FRANCE | 2026 | COMEDY & DRAMA
French with English subtitles | 119 mins
Directors: Olivier Nakache & Eric Toledano



A heart-warming and highly energetic retro family comedy centered on a 12-year-old boy in 1985 suburban Paris, on the eve of his Bar Mitzvah. Vincent must navigate life between his distant older brother and quarrelling parents while grappling with identity, friendship, love, and understanding why adults seem lost. Featuring *Call My Agent's* Camille Cottin.

Sponsored by **Anonymous**

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SHORTS SELECTION

8 NOV / SUNDAY @ 4:15 PM–6:20 PM
at Golden Scene Cinema

BUTCHER'S STAIN

ISRAEL | 2026 | SHORT DRAMA
Hebrew, Arabic with English subtitles | 26 mins
Director: Meyer Levinson-Blount

Set in a Tel Aviv supermarket after the October 7 attacks, this Oscar-nominated short film follows Samir, an Arab butcher falsely accused of tearing down hostage posters in the staff breakroom.

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NOT MY WEEKEND

ISRAEL | 2025 | SHORT DRAMA
Hebrew with English subtitles | 19 mins
Director: Rona Segal

Over the course of a single fateful night, Sharon, a woman in her 40s determined to reclaim a spark of her youth, scrambles to find childcare so she can attend a rave. As she races toward her destination, the film builds devastating dramatic irony, as her desperate destination is the Nova Music Festival on the evening of October 6, 2023.

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BERSHERT

UK | 2025 | SHORT COMEDY | English | 19 mins
Director: Lewis Rose



A poignant, tender drama about a grumpy old man in a British care home and a reluctant Bar Mitzvah boy — and the unlikely friendship that changes their lives forever.

BABKA

USA | 2025 | SHORT COMEDY | English | 19 mins
Director: Serena Dykman



Moishe (Saul Rubinek), a recently blinded, Orthodox Jewish baker in Williamsburg, Brooklyn, teams up with Jesus (Jonny Beauchamp), a queer, Catholic, Latino guide dog trainer, to navigate life with his guide dog and save his bakery.

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HALF A DATE

ISRAEL | 2026 | SHORT DRAMA
Hebrew with English subtitles | 23 mins
Director: Eden Abitbol

Tzvi, an ultra-Orthodox yeshiva student meets Carmel, a secular female soldier, at a recruitment office. As the two bond over a crossword puzzle, what starts as a tense interaction at a government office shifts into a surprising and emotional bond as they realize they could have been a couple or best friends in another reality.

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DOUBLE HAPPINESS

USA | 2026 | SHORT ROMANCE
English, Chinese with English subtitles | 17 mins
Director: Shari Albert

After 40 years of Christmas dinners at the same Chinese restaurant, a spicy New York Jewish widow and the reserved restaurant owner who served her family every year, find themselves drawn into an unexpected late-in-life romance.

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SPECIAL PRE-FESTIVAL EVENT



5 NOV / THURSDAY @ 7:30 PM at Emperor Cinemas Times Square

ISRAEL | 2025 | DOCUMENTARY | English | 84 mins

Director: Sarit Asnapi

Frank Lowy: To Be a Jew traces the extraordinary life of Holocaust survivor, entrepreneur, and philanthropist Frank Lowy, whose journey from war-torn Europe to building one of the world's largest shopping center empires is inseparable from his enduring Jewish identity. As Sir Lowy reflects on pivotal moments in his life—from surviving the Holocaust and fighting in Israel's War of Independence to achieving remarkable business success in Australia—the film explores how a deep commitment to the Jewish people shaped his life's purpose. More than a portrait of an iconic businessman, this inspiring documentary is a meditation on identity, responsibility, and what it means to be a Jew across generations.