

HONG KONG JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL 2023

Jewish film festival

SHTTL

OPENING FILM

11 NOV / SATURDAY @ 7:30 PM
at MCL Cyberport Cinema
Ukraine, France | 2022 | Drama | Yiddish with English and Cantonese subtitles | 114 mins Director: Ady Walter



French director Ady Walter's remarkable cinematic accomplishment was recorded in a single-shot on a set built in a forest outside Kiev. This evocative and visually compelling film takes place in a Jewish village the night before the Nazi invasion of the Soviet Union. Ady places the story of an assimilated Jew returning to his village to rescue his beloved from an arranged marriage, against a multi-character story of shtetl life that is about to be destroyed. Featuring an eminent international cast that includes Moshe Lobel and Saul Rubinek, the actors trained to speak Yiddish and Ukrainian. Many of the crew are now fighting in the current war in Ukraine. Ady will travel to Hong Kong to give us his personal views on this vital story.

Winner - Best Emerging Filmmaker Ady Walter - Atlanta Jewish Film Festival 2023
Winner - Best Feature Film - Berlin Jewish Film Festival 2023
Winner - Audience Award - Rome Film Festival 2022
Featuring an in-person introduction and discussion with Director Ady Walter

Sponsored by Anonymous

SHTTL (片名)

英國、烏克蘭、法國 | 2022 | 劇情片
意猶維語、配英文字幕 | 114 分鐘
導演：阿迪·沃爾特



在基輔外一片森林裡搭建的佈景中，法國導演阿迪·沃爾特 (Ady Walter) 的傑出電影成就以一鏡到底的方式記錄了下來。這部引人入勝、極富靈性的電影發生在納粹入侵蘇聯前夜的一個猶太村莊。阿迪講述了一位歸化猶太人回到他的村莊，試圖解救他心上人免於包辦婚姻的故事，同時也展現了即將毀滅的猶太小鎮生活的多角色故事。該片擁有包括莫斯·羅貝爾 (Moshe Lobel) 和索爾·魯賓克 (Saul Rubinek) 在內的一流國際演員陣容。演員們都接受了意猶維語和烏克蘭語的培訓。許多工作人員現在正在烏克蘭與納粹作戰。導演阿迪·沃爾特將前往香港，與觀眾進行面對面的介紹和討論，分享他對這個重要故事的看法。

The Return of the Violin

12 NOV / SUNDAY @ 12:00 PM
at Golden Scene Cinema
Israel | 2012 | Documentary
Hebrew, Polish with English subtitles | 65 mins
Director: Haim Hecht



A young Jewish boy [Bronislaw Huberman] from Czeszochowa, Poland, plays the violin with such virtuosity that a nobleman gifts him a 1731 Stradivarius, which he later plays in front of composer Johannes Brahms. While playing at Carnegie Hall in 1936 Huberman's violin is stolen. Forced to flee Europe at the onset of World War II, he emigrates to Israel where he establishes the Israeli National Orchestra (the present day Israeli Philharmonic Orchestra) and rescues hundreds of Jewish musicians from Nazi Europe. In this documentary, American violinist Joshua Bell reveals the compelling story of the violin, which was only recovered in 1985.

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The Conspiracy

12 NOV / SUNDAY @ 1:50 PM
at Golden Scene Cinema
USA | 2022 | Documentary Animation
English | 90 mins
Director: Maxim Pozdorovkin



This startling animated documentary addresses an insidious, centuries-old conspiracy theory that continues to rear its ugly head today: the idea that Jews have a secret international plot to control the world. Filmmaker Maxim Pozdorovkin and a host of talented voice actors including Mayim Bialik, Liev Schreiber, Jason Alexander, and Ben Shenkman connect the dots of hate and fear, walking us through almost 250 years of antisemitic ideology, and focusing on how times of uncertainty give rise to hatred and increase anxieties in marginalized populations.

Winner - Special Jury Prize Documentary Feature - Sarasota Film Festival 2023

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Shamir: War, Peace and a Dream

12 NOV / SUNDAY @ 3:35 PM
at Golden Scene Cinema
Israel | 2021 | Documentary
Hebrew, with English subtitles | 60 mins
Directors: Igal Lerner & Erez Friedman



Yair Shamir joins us in Hong Kong to present this film, which intertwines personal testimonies with exclusive behind-the-scenes footage to reveal the personal and public history of his father Yitzhak Shamir. This former Prime Minister of Israel was a ground-breaking leader, who impacted the Middle East for decades.

Featuring an in-person discussion with Yair Shamir

Sponsored by Dr. Raphael Aharoni

The Man in the Basement

12 NOV / SUNDAY @ 5:20 PM
at Golden Scene Cinema
France | 2021 | Drama, Thriller
French with English subtitles | 114 mins
Director: Philippe Le Guay



After a Jewish couple in Paris sells their basement storage unit to a former history teacher ("The Intouchables" François Cluzet), they discover his secret life as an antisemitic conspiracy theorist. As the couple struggles to rescind the sale, the buyer befriends their naive teenage daughter.

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America

12 NOV / SUNDAY @ 7:30 PM
at Golden Scene Cinema
Israel, Germany, The Czech Republic | 2022 | Drama
Hebrew, Arabic, English with English subtitles | 127 mins
Director: Ofir Raul Graizer



An Israeli swimming coach, living in Chicago, returns home after 10 years of absence to bury his estranged father. An encounter with a beloved childhood friend, and his Ethiopian fiancée, sets a series of events in motion that will affect everyone's lives. This visually arresting story moves between a flower shop and an ancient monastery, between a swimming pool in Chicago and the Mediterranean, between life and death - and somewhere in the middle.

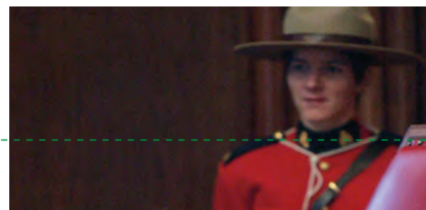
Winner - The Critics Prize - Miami Jewish Film Festival 2023
Winner - Best Narrative Feature - Philadelphia Jewish Film Festival 2022
Winner - Best Actress (Oshrat Ingadashet) - Jerusalem Film Festival 2022

Sponsored by The Dorfman Family

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Without Precedent

13 NOV / MONDAY @ 7:00 PM
at Golden Scene Cinema
Canada | 2023 | Documentary
English | 84 mins
Director: Barry Avrich



The daughter of Holocaust survivors; Rosalie Silberman Abella was determined from a young age to defend the rights of those who faced injustice. After her family relocates to Toronto in 1950 she studies law and, at 29 years old, was appointed to be a judge, becoming both the youngest and the first pregnant judge in Canadian history. Looking back on an illustrious career that included being the first Jewish woman to sit on the Supreme Court of Canada, it is clear that Abella's vision for an inclusive, diverse, and equitable Canada resonates to this day, and that we are closer to that ideal thanks to her contributions.

Sponsored by Sharon Ser

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Barren

13 NOV / MONDAY @ 8:45 PM
at Golden Scene Cinema
Israel | 2022 | Drama
Hebrew with English subtitles | 108 mins
Director: Mordechai Vardi



A compelling story of a young, ultra-Orthodox couple coping with barrenness and the effects of a traumatic event. Beautifully acted, and at times disturbing, the film raises fundamental questions about religion and faith, presenting a complex view of the insular community where the difference between good and bad is not always clear cut.

Nominated - Best Full-Length Israeli Feature - Jerusalem Film Festival 2022

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Elik & Jimmy

14 NOV / TUESDAY @ 7:00 PM
at Golden Scene Cinema
Israel | 2022 | Comedy
Hebrew with English subtitles | 93 mins
Director: Gudis Schneider



A witty and charming romantic comedy, Elik and Jimmy meet while serving in the Israeli army, days before they're discharged. He's an overweight corporal, she's a beautiful officer, but there is chemistry between them. As they meet again, through the years, the spark is still there. He wants her yet she resists. Only in their 30's, older and wiser, can Elik and Jimmy start becoming friends... and more?

Winner - Best Film - Haifa International Film Festival 2022
Winner - Best Actor (Tsachi Sadan) - Haifa International Film Festival 2022

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Shadow of the Day

14 NOV / TUESDAY @ 8:50 PM
at Golden Scene Cinema
Italy | 2022 | Drama
Italian with English subtitles | 125 mins
Director: Giuseppe Piccioni



In 1938 Italy, after the promulgation of the racial laws, fascist-abiding restaurateur Luciano believes he can still live by his own rules inside his business. Everything changes when he hires Anna, a girl with a dangerous secret. A resonance with Europe's flirtation with modern-day fascism can be felt in every scene in this mesmerizing period thriller.

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Alla Vita

15 NOV / Wednesday @ 7:00 PM
at Golden Scene Cinema
Italy, France | 2022 | Drama
Italian, French, English with English subtitles | 99 mins
Director: Stéphane Freiss



The story of a young, French ultra-Orthodox woman and a divorced Italian farmer who both long to break free. Even though she is deeply unhappy and desperate to leave the faith, Esther has accompanied her father on their annual trip to Southern Italy to harvest strogan (kosher lemons) for the religious holiday of Sukkot. Elio, the non-Jewish owner of the farm, is grateful for their visit as it helps the farm financially. Alla Vita is a film that understands the power of subtlety. It isn't flashy or melodramatic, nor is it interested in undermining those who choose to live a life of devout faith. Instead, it's much more driven by its characters' desire for a life that is truly meant for them.

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Jewish Film Festival

June Zero

15 NOV / Wednesday @ 9:00 PM
at Golden Scene Cinema
Israel | 2022 | Drama
Hebrew with English subtitles | 99 mins
Director: Jake Polrow



This empathetic and humanistic film looks at the infamous trial of Adolf Eichmann, the architect of the mass extermination of Jews during the Second World War. Depicting the events preceding Eichmann's 1962 execution, Director Jake Polrow has a unique take on the impact of the event on the Israeli society of the time. Following the perspective of the three main characters, a 13-year-old child, Eichmann's prison guard and an investigator for the prosecution, we see a light, but gripping, way to delineate the story of this national defining event.

Nominated - Best Full-Length Israeli Feature - Jerusalem Film Festival 2022

Sponsored by Robert L. Meyer

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The Future

16 NOV / TUESDAY @ 7:00 PM
at K11 Art House
Israel | 2023 | Drama
Hebrew, Arabic with English subtitles | 81 mins
Director: Noam Kaplan



In an alternative version of contemporary Israel; Nurit Bloch, a profiler, wants a child. A future. The only solution is to find a surrogate. At the same time her groundbreaking algorithm, designed to identify individuals planning to carry out terror attacks fails and a young Palestinian woman assassinates the Israeli minister of Space and Tourism. In order to 'fix the bugs' in her algorithm, Nurit organizes a series of interviews with the assassin, conversations with deep philosophical and political implications.

Nominated - Best Cinematography - Award of the Israeli Film Academy 2023

Nominated - Best Actress (Reymonde Amsalem) - Award of the Israeli Film Academy 2023

Nominated - Best Supporting Actress Samar Qupty - Award of the Israeli Film Academy 2023

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The Accusation

16 NOV / Thursday @ 8:40 PM
at K11 Art House
France | 2021 | Drama
French with English subtitles | 138 mins
Director: Yvan Attal



This intriguing film challenges the very timely #MeToo debate narrative. Should all rape victims be believed no matter what? Does the accused always deserve to be sentenced to the maximum punishment? How does public discussion influence our views? By showing us the different perceptions that Mila and Alex have of what happened, but also examining how two very different cultures and lifestyles cross paths over one night, we're left with the question "which version of their stories is the truth?"

Winner - Best Screenplay - Barcelona-Sant Jordi International Film Festival 2022

Winner - Best Director - Barcelona-Sant Jordi International Film Festival 2022

Winner - Best Film - FEST International Film Festival 2022

Winner - Best Screenplay - FEST International Film Festival 2022

Winner - Best Actress - FEST International Film Festival 2022

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March '68

18 NOV / SATURDAY @ 7:30 PM
at Golden Scene Cinema
Poland | 2022 | Drama
Polish with English subtitles | 117 mins
Director: Krzysztof Lang



In this Romeo and Juliet coming-of-age story set against the volatile backdrop of late-1960s Communist Warsaw, Hania and Janek are young and madly in love. Around them students are protesting against the unlawful expulsion of their colleagues from the university and Jewish citizens are being persecuted in a series of antisemitic purges. Things spiral out of control, leading to a powerful climax set during the infamous events of March 1968. Intercut with archival footage from those days, this powerful, gripping film depicts the momentous collision of history and romance. (Warning: Adult Content)

Sponsored by The Ohel Leah Synagogue Charity Trust

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Paris Boutique

18 NOV / SATURDAY @ 9:45 PM
at Golden Scene Cinema
Israel, France | 2022 | Comedy
Hebrew, English, French, Spanish, Arabic with English subtitles | 81 mins
Director: Marco Carmel



Set in the heart of magical Jerusalem, this comedy of mistakes is the story of a friendship between two women at a critical point in their lives. Louise, a French Jewish lawyer, arrives in Israel to finalize an important deal. Her driver, Neta sees an opportunity to profit off of Louise, and decides to stick with her at any cost. Together, as they wander the narrow alleyways of the Old City of Jerusalem, they discover a secret connection between an ultra-Orthodox woman and a Christian man who communicate through notes hidden between the stones of the Wailing Wall.

Sponsored by The Zion Family

Girl No. 60427

19 NOV / SUNDAY @ 1:00 PM
at Golden Scene Cinema
Israel | 2022 | Drama
Hebrew with English subtitles | 22 mins
Director: Shulamit Lifshitz



Tel Aviv, 1998, summer vacation. Reut finds and reads her grandmother's secret diary from the Holocaust. Grandma's story resonates in Reut's well-developed imagination, and the fun week in Tel Aviv with Grandma and Grandpa turns into something else entirely. This mixed-genre, live action/animation film is based on the childhood memories of the director, who discovered her grandmother's Holocaust diary when she was thirteen.

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Music Under the Swastika

19 NOV / SUNDAY Double Feature with "Girl No. 60427"
at Golden Scene Cinema
Germany | 2022 | Documentary
German, English with English subtitles | 84 mins
Director: Christian Berger



Why was classical music so important to Hitler and Goebbels? The stories of Jewish cellist Anita Lasker-Wallfisch, member of the infamous Women's Orchestra of Auschwitz, and of star conductor Wilhelm Furtwängler, who worked with the Nazis, provide insight. Both shared a love for classical German music. Why did gifted artists like Furtwängler make a pact with evil? Why was classical music played in extermination camps? And how did this change the way victims saw music?

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Exodus 91

NOV 20 / SUNDAY @ 5:20 PM
at Golden Scene Cinema
Israel | 2023 | Docu-Drama
English, Hebrew, Amharic with English subtitles | 90 mins
Director: Micah Smith



This docu-narrative film tells the story of Asher Naim, an Israeli diplomat caught between worlds and facing a crisis of faith in himself and in his country. Asher, himself a North-African Jew, is sent to Ethiopia to negotiate the escape of 15,000 Ethiopian Jews from a country collapsing under famine and civil war. The film explores challenging questions of racism, white saviourism, cultural identity, as well as the hardships and politics of immigration.

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Filip

NOV 20 / SUNDAY @ 7:10 PM
at Golden Scene Cinema
Poland | 2022 | Drama
German, Polish, French, Yiddish with English subtitles | 125 mins
Director: Michal Kwiecinski



In 1943, Filip, a Polish Jew, who managed to escape from the Warsaw ghetto, is waiting tables in the heart of Nazi Germany - while taking revenge on the Nazis in his own unique way. Alone, cosmopolitan, and incapable of deeper feelings, Filip hides his Jewish origins and often eludes death, while carelessly enjoying all the charms of a life surrounded by luxury, beautiful women and friends from all over Europe. This very sexy film is wonderfully addictive. (Warning: nudity, sex)

Winner - Best Feature Film - Polish Film Festival 2022

Winner - Best Cinematography Feature Film - Polish Film Festival 2022

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Jewish film festival

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11 NOV –
19 NOV 2023

THE
24TH
YEAR

HONG KONG
JEWISH
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FESTIVAL

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Dear Friends,

Once again it is my absolute pleasure to announce the program for this year's Festival. We're very excited for the 24th edition of the Festival, which is sure to be a highlight of Hong Kong's 2023 cultural calendar.

The Festival opens at MCL Cinema Cyberport with a truly remarkable cinematic achievement, the film SHTTL. After hand-building a wood replica of a traditional Jewish village in modern day pre-war Ukraine, and training an international cast of multi-language actors to speak Yiddish, Director Ady Walter then proceeds to record the almost 2 hour long film (a love story and ode to small town life about to be destroyed) in one single uninterrupted shot. Truly a film that needs to be seen. The screening will be followed by an in-person Q&A with Ady himself, and of course by our popular dessert gala.

The rest of the week you'll be treated to a wonderful variety of films; love stories set against historical conflicts (March '68, Shadow of the Day), films about questioning faith (Barren, Alla Vita), dramatic documentaries that revisit vital historic events (Music Under the Swastika, June Zero) and vital historic figures (Without Precedent, Shamir: War, Peace and a Dream), as well as Romcoms (Paris Boutique, Elik & Jimmy), thrillers (The Man in the Basement, The Future) and many more.

The Festival runs from Saturday night the 11th of November through Sunday, November 19th. The bulk of screenings will take place at Golden Scene Cinema in Kennedy Town, and we'll take a quick trip across the harbor on Thursday night for screenings at the beautiful K11 Musea Art House.

Enormous thanks go out to all of you in our audience, to our Sponsors, our Supporters, our Board Members, our Viewing Committee, and all of the volunteers who make this Festival possible.

I can't wait to welcome you in November. See you at the movies.

Eli Bitan
Chairman

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Dina Wosner			

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Nicole Izsak	Debbie Kalmanowitz	Julie Kohn	Sandy Murzin
Matthew Murzin			

A monumental thank you to Sharon Cooper, our Webmaster. Huge thanks to Nancy Wong at J&S Printing Company Ltd. and to Josh Kahan, our Trailer Creator and Editor extraordinaire. Thank you to Shani Brownstein, Festival Producer.

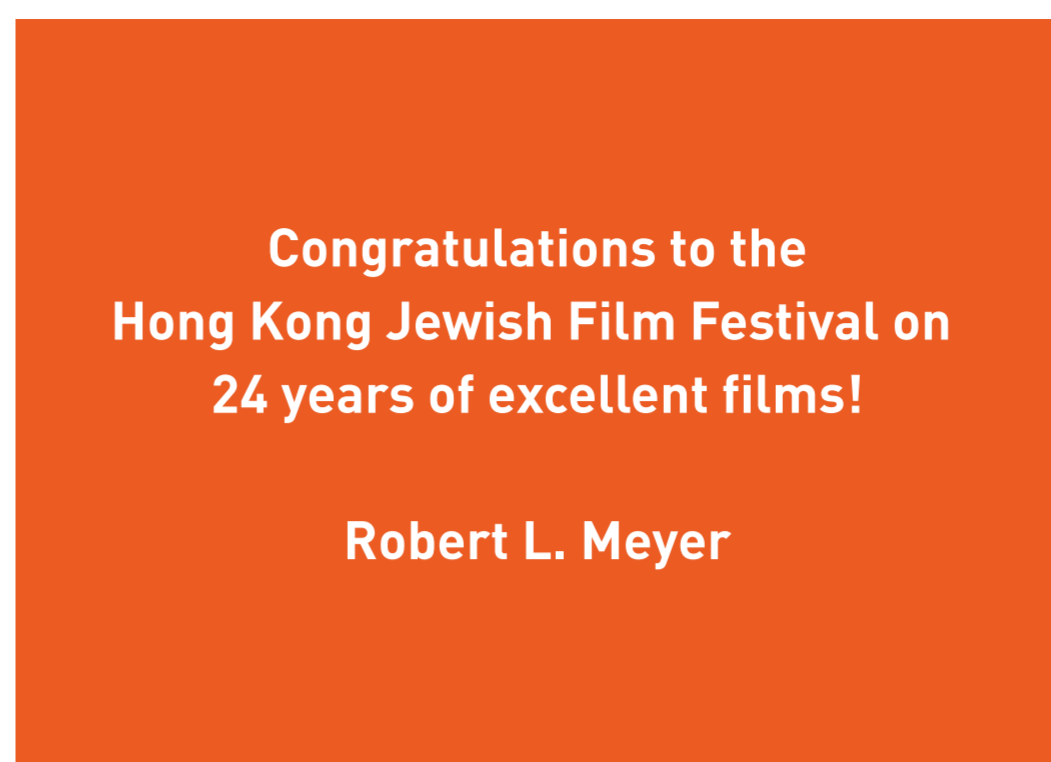
Additional thanks to Golden Scene Cinemas, MCL Cinemas and Neill Morgan, Daniel Tse and the whole JCC Team.

We thank our sponsors and participating organizations for their generous support.

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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 **MCL Cyberport Cinema**, Shop 103 on Level 2, The Arcade, Cyberport, No. 100 Cyberport Road, Pokfulam, Hong Kong
To Purchase Tickets: <https://hkmovie6.com/> click on 'MCL Cyberport Cinema' or on HKMovie application and click into MCL Cyberport Cinema

Screenings will take also place at:
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

K11 Art House - MCL Cinema, Level 4, **K11 MUSEA**, Victoria Dockside, 18 Salisbury Road, Tsim Sha Tsui, Kowloon
To Purchase Tickets: <https://hkmovie6.com/> click on 'Golden Scene Cinema' or on HKMovie application and click into K11 Art House

Individual Ticket: HK\$110

Student/Senior Ticket: HK\$80

Macher Pass (Access to all films): **HK\$1,800**
(Student tickets kindly supported by Withers Worldwide)

Opening Night

(includes film and entry to post-screening party)

Adults: HK\$380, Students: HK\$280

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FILMS SCHEDULE

Saturday, November 11 7:30 PM	MCL Cyberport Cinema SHTTL
Sunday, November 12 12:00 PM 1:50 PM 3:35 PM 5:20 PM 7:30 PM	Golden Scene Cinema The Return of the Violin The Conspiracy Shamir: War, Peace and a Dream Man in the Basement America
Monday, November 13 7:00 PM 8:35 PM	Golden Scene Cinema Without Precedent Barren
Tuesday, November 14 7:00 PM 8:50 PM	Golden Scene Cinema Elik & Jimmy Shadow of the Day
Wednesday, November 15 7:00 PM 9:00 PM	Golden Scene Cinema Alla Vita June Zero
Thursday, November 16 7:00 PM 8:40 PM	K11 Art House The Future The Accusation
Saturday, November 18 7:30 PM 9:45 PM	Golden Scene Cinema March '68 Paris Boutique
Sunday, November 19 1:00 PM 3:35 PM 5:20 PM 7:10 PM	Golden Scene Cinema Girl No 60427 & Music Under the Swastika Vishniac Exodus 91 Filip

HONG KONG JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL

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