

It's hard to believe that this year will be the 25th edition of the Hong Kong Jewish Film Festival. The Festival is now a mainstay of the Fall cultural calendar in Hong Kong. Over the years the Festival has celebrated the history and diversity of Jewish culture, presenting films that are both entertaining and challenging. It has been our absolute pleasure to have made

This year's Festival opens on Saturday, November 9th with a screening of Running on Sand, a light-hearted comedy, scent of Ted Lasso, that has an important message about the precarious position of refugees around the world. The film's Director, Adar Shafran, will join us in Hong Kong to introduce the film in person.

In celebration of our anniversary, we've extended the Festival by an extra three days. This year we close on Wednesday November 20th, with a screening of The Stronghold. Set in the Sinai desert in 1973, the film follows events at a desolate Israeli outpost which comes under siege after a surprise Egyptian attack. Based on the memories of the soldiers who were there, the film is both an honest and terrifying memorial to the 50th anniversary of the Yom Kippur War.

On Monday, November 11th we present a very special evening with Shaylee Atary. Last year, we dedicated our Festival to her husband, filmmaker Yahav Winner, who was murdered in the Hamas attack in October 2023. This year we are honored that Shaylee will travel to Hong Kong to join us for a live discussion and screening of her latest film, Single Light. Throughout the Festival we'll screen films featuring actors Carol Kane, Michael Aloni, Jason Schwartzman and Kate Burton, as well as the new film from Michel Hazanavicius, the Oscar winning director of 2011's Best Picture, 'The Artist'.

After Opening Night, all screenings will take place at Golden Scene Cinema in Kennedy Town.

We are so honored to have had audiences like you for 25 editions of the Festival. You have our gratitude. I would also like to thank our Sponsors, our Supporters, our Board Members, our Viewing Committee, and all of the volunteers who make this

See you at the movies

Eli Bitan

#### **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!

Thank you to Shani Brownstein, Festival Producer.
Additional thanks to Golden Scene Cinema, Cineart (JP) and Neill Morgan, Daniel Tse and the whole JCC

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

#### **VALUED PARTNERS**























Congratulations!

Hong Kong Jewish Film Festival on its 25<sup>th</sup> season

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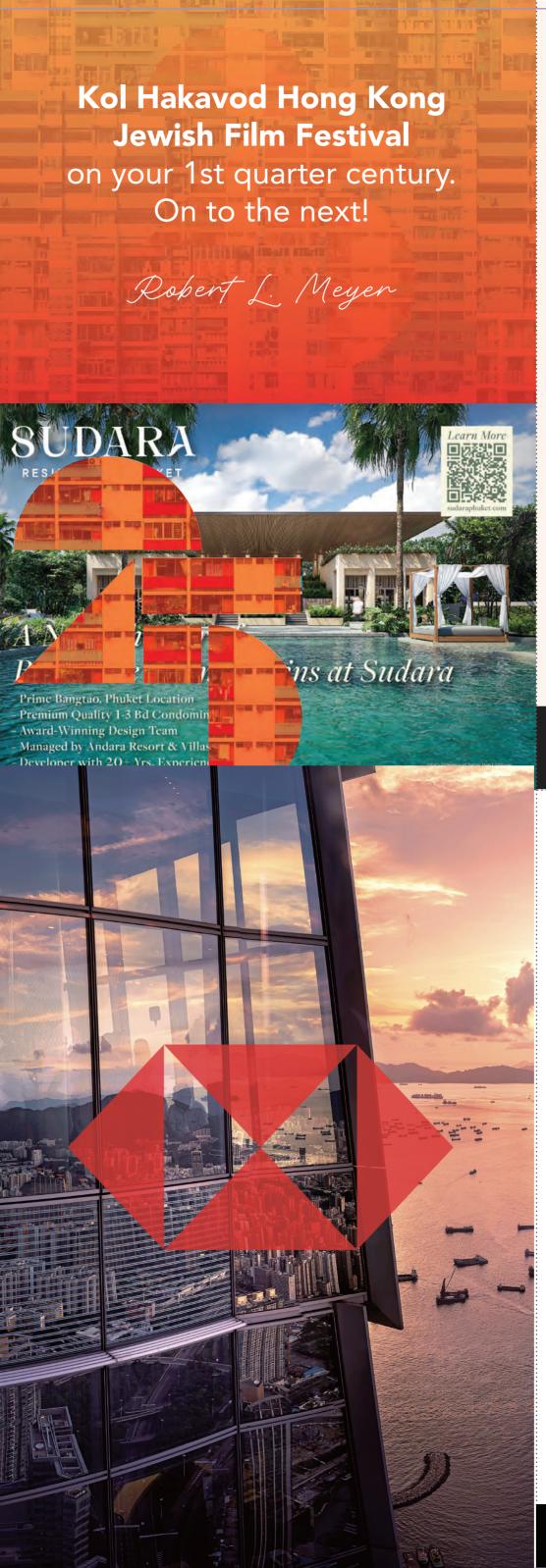
Sharon Ser and her partner Rita Ku at Rita Ku & Ser are proud and delighted to support the Hong Kong Jewish Film Festival 2024 and be part of this important event



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#### **TICKETING INFORMATION**

To book tickets, visit www.hkjff.org or see below:

Opening Night will take place at Cineart (JP) 3/F (Port.), JP Plaza, 22-36 Paterson St.,

To Purchase Tickets: https://hkmovie6.com/ click on 'Cineart (JP)' or on HKMovie application and click into 'Cineart (JP)'

#### Screenings will take place following Opening Night 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

Individual Ticket: HK\$110 Student / Senior Ticket: HK\$80 Macher Pass (Access to All Films): HK\$1,800

Includes film and entry to post-screening party Adults: HK\$380 Students: HK\$280

#### SATURDAY / NOV 9 CINEART (JP) 7:30 PM

Running on Sand SUNDAY / NOV 10 **GOLDEN SCENE CINEMA** 

1:00 PM The Most Precious of Cargoes Here Lived 4:20 PM

> The Source of All Beauty Wedding Night 6:10 PM The Spy Family Between the Temples

#### **MONDAY / NOV 11 GOLDEN SCENE CINEMA**

7:00 PM Single Light 8:30 PM Irena's Vow

#### TUESDAY / NOV 12 **GOLDEN SCENE CINEMA** 7:00 PM Delegation

Auction (Le Tableau Volé) 9:00 PM

**GOLDEN SCENE CINEMA** More Than Friends 1:30 PM

The Milky Way 7:00 PM The Spoils 9:00 PM

THURSDAY / NOV 14 **GOLDEN SCENE CINEMA** Call Me Dancer

8:40 PM The Performance

**GOLDEN SCENE CINEMA** SATURDAY / NOV 16 7:30 PM Family Heirloom

All About the Levkoviches

9:30 PM Arugam Bay

SUNDAY / NOV 17 **GOLDEN SCENE CINEMA** 

The Return from the Other Planet 1:00 PM The Anne Frank Gift Shop

Giado: Holocaust in the Desert 4:20PM Tell Nonie

5:30 PM Martha Liebermann: A Stolen Life

7:30 PM Highway 65

MONDAY / NOV 18 **GOLDEN SCENE CINEMA** 

Kidnapped: The Abduction of Edgardo Mortara 7:30 PM

TUESDAY / NOV 19 **GOLDEN SCENE CINEMA** 

The Monkey House 7:30 PM

WEDNESDAY / NOV 20 | GOLDEN SCENE CINEMA 7:30 PM The Stronghold

**HONG KONG JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL** 

One Robinson Place 70 Robinson Road Mid-Levels, Hong Kong

Phone: +852 9196-5353 www.hkjff.org



# **HONG KONG**

# JEWISH FILM **FESTIVAL 2024**

### **Running on Sand**

9 NOV / SATURDAY @ 7:30PM at Cineart (JP) Israel | 2023 | Comedy Drama | 104 mins Hebrew, English, Tigrinya with English subtitles



lumari, a young Eritrean refugee living in Israel, is abou to be deported. While escaping at the airport he is mistaken for a professional Nigerian football striker who is arriving in Israel to save a struggling team. Despite the absence of any soccer talent, Aumari is able to play along and heal the divisions of his team. Starring Congo-born actor Chancela Mongoza and a group of other African migrant actors, this light-hearted comedy, reminiscent of Ted Lasso, demonstrates the precarious position of refugees worldwide and the importance of treating people with respect.

WINNER, Audience Choice Award (Best Feature), Stony Brook FF; Best of Fest Audience Award, Palm Springs Intl FF; Audience Award (Best Narrative Feature), Boca Intl Jewish FF 2024; WINNER, Best Film, Israeli FF Paris; Best Debut Film and Best Screenplay, Haifa Intl FF 2023



#### The Most Precious Cargoes

10 NOV / SUNDAY @ 1:00PM at Golden Scene Cinema France, Belgium | 2024 | Animation Drama | 81 mins French with English subtitles Director: Michel Hazanavicius



Oscar winning director Michel Hazanavicius (2011's Best Picture, 'The Artist') turns to animation to present this erful and unsettling story set during the height of World War II. Once upon a time, a poor woodcutter and his wife lived in a great forest. One day, the woodcutter's wife rescues a baby girl thrown from one of the many trains that constantly pass through the forest. This baby, this "most precious of cargoes", will transform their lives, as well as those whose paths the child will cross - including the man who threw her from the train. Some will try to protect her, Supported by:

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ET MACAR whatever the cost. Their story reveals the best and worst in

CONSULATE GENERAL OF BELGIUM IN HONG KONG

# Here Lived

10 NOV / SUNDAY @ 2:40PM at Golden Scene Cinema USA | 2024 | Documentary | 82 mins

English Director: Jane Wells



When conceptual artist Gunter Demnia first conceived the idea of laying Stolpersteine (literal translation: stumbling stones) for Jews, Roma, Sinti, and disabled victims of National Socialism in his native Germany, he never imagined his project would grow to become the world's largest decentralized memorial. The Stolpersteine he crafted is, in theory, quite simple: concrete blocks asuring 10x10cm, topped with permanent brass plates that are hand stamped with the names and fates of victims of Hitler's reign of terror. The stones are laid into the pavement in front of the last voluntarily chosen residence of those murdered by the Nazis. They are deeply personal and draw attention to individual tragedies. They have now been placed in 30 countries across Europe and on May 23rd, 2023, Gunter Demnig was filmed laying the

# Neseh



Director: Shmuel Elmaleh

10 NOV / SUNDAY @ 4:20PM at Golden Scene Cinema Israel | 2023 | Short Drama | 11 mins Hebrew with English subtitles



Mickey's son is getting married today at the winery that he himself has owned and cherished for decades. For 24 years Mickey has preserved a special barrel of wine to open fo this occasion. But minutes before the ceremony, the rabb who is the kosher supervisor at the winery, witnesses a non-Jew touching the wine, thus rendering it "Neseh" (forbidden to all Jews). Mickey wants to serve the wine anyway (who's to know?), but the rabbi is going to make damn sure it doesn't leave the cellar



# The Source of All Beauty

10 NOV / SUNDAY @ 4:20PM at Golden Scene Israel | 2023 | Short Drama | 20 mins Hebrew with English subtitles



Yaeli, an ultra-Orthodox young woman, carries a secret that may destroy her chances of happiness. David, a brilliant yeshiva student, is interested in meeting Yaeli, but her father, in an attempt to protect Yaeli from humiliation, refuses to give his permission for the two young people to

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### **Wedding Night**

10 NOV / SUNDAY @ 4:20PM at Golden Scene Cinema Israel | 2023 | Documentary | 60 mins



The wedding night is a night of nights in ultra-Orthodox society. On this night, a man and a woman connect physically for the very first time. These two very young people, almost complete strangers to each other, are put under enormous pressure to go from forced separation towards an intimate union. Ultra-Orthodox director Rachel Elitzur uses rare testimonies, combined with visuals from the wedding day, to create an astonishing film that is both respectful and challenging to her community.

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#### The Spy Family

10 NOV / SUNDAY @ 6:10PM at Golden Scene Cinema Israel | 2023 | Documentary | 75 mins English, Hebrew, Arabic with English subtitles



The true story of a Palestinian and his Egyptian wife who spied for Israel during the most tense and violent years in Israel-Egypt relations. The Shahin parents were recruited by Israeli Intelligence after the Six Day War, and soon brought their three children into the "family business". Infamous in Egypt, they are largely unremembered in Israel. Now, the history of the espionage affair and the family's personal story is brought to light in this

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#### Between the Temples

10 NOV / SUNDAY @ 8:00PM at Golden Scene Cinema USA | 2024 | Comedy Feature | 111 mins



ason Schwartzman plays a cantor experiencing a crisis of faith who finds his world turned further upside down when his grade school music teacher (played by Carol Kane) re-enters his life as his new adult Bat Mitzvah student. This warm and anxious comedy explores the complexities of belief, connection and what it means to be a real mensch.

WINNER, Prix de la Critique and Best Director (Amercian Feature Film Category) Champs Élysées

11 NOV / MONDAY @ 7:00PM at Golden Scene Cinema Israel | 2023 | Short Drama | 29 mins Hebrew with English subtitles Director: Shaylee Atary



An evening with Shaylee Atary Last year, the HKJFF dedicated our Festival to filmmaker Yahav Winner who was murdered in the Hamas attack on Kibbutz Kfar Aza in October 2023. This year we are honored to be joined in person by his widow, and fellow filmmaker, Shaylee Atary. Shaylee will discuss her life in Israel and present her latest film Single Light, the story of a woman who's "light has gone out" following a sexual assault by a fellow student from her music school. (This film contains material that may be disturbing. Viewer discretion is advised.)

WINNER, Emerging Filmmaker Award, JxJ Festival Washington 2024; WINNER, Best Student Short Film, Jerusalem Film Festival 2023

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#### Irena's Vow

11 NOV / MONDAY @ 8:30PM at Golden Scene Cinema Canada, Poland | 2023 | Drama War | 121 mins English Director: Louise Archambault



Through the eyes of a strong-willed woman comes the remarkable true story of Irena Gut Opdyke ('The Book Thief's' Sophie Nélisse) and the triumphs of the human spirit over devastating tragedy. 19-year-old Irena Gut is promoted to housekeeper in the home of a highly respected Nazi officer in Poland when she finds out that the Jewish ghetto is about to be liquidated. Determined to save 12 Jewish workers, she decides to shelter them in the safest place she can think of – the basement of the German Major's house. Over the next eight months, Irena uses her wit, instinct, charm, and immense courage to hide her friends for as long as possible.

WINNER, Best Feature Film Writers Guild of Canada 2024; WINNER, Audience Award, Vancouver Intl Film FF; LIUNA People's Choice Award, Windsor Intl FF 2023

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# Delegation

12 NOV / TUESDAY @ 7:00PM at Golden Scene Cinema Israel, Poland, Germany | 2023 | Drama | 101 mins English, Hebrew, Polish with English subtitles Director: Asaf Sabar



A trio of Israeli high school friends take part in a class trip to visit concentration camps and memorials in Poland, where the incomprehensible past of WW2 meets the complex present of being an Israeli teenager. This perceptive coming-of-age story is about the search for one's identity against the backdrop of modern antisemitism and the history of the Holocaust.

WINNER, Best Screenplay (Asaf Saban) and Best Ensemble Award Jerusalem Film Festival 2023; WINNER, Audience Award Film Award for Children's Rights, Unabhängiges FilmFest Osnabrück 2023: WINNER, David Camera Award (Asaf Saban) Warsaw Jewish Film Festival 2023; WINNER, Golden Slipper Best Feature Film for Youth Zlín International Film Festival 2023



# Auction (Le Tableau Volé)

12 NOV / TUESDAY @ 9:00PM at Golden Scene Cinema France | 2024 | Drama | 91 mins French, English, German with English subtitles



André Masson, an auctioneer at the famous Scottie's auction house, receives a letter stating that a painting by Egon Schiele has been discovered in Mulhouse, France, at the home of a young worker. Very skeptical, he makes the trip and has to face the truth: the painting is authentic, a masterpiece gone missing since 1939, confiscated by the Nazis. André sees this discovery as the pinnacle of his career, but also the beginning of a struggle that could jeopardize it.

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#### More Than Friends

13 NOV / WEDNESDAY @ 1:30PM at Golden Scene Cinema Israel | 2023 | Short Drama | 19 mins Hebrew with English subtitles



A lesbian mom discovers a love letter written by her 11-year-old son to another boy. Concerned for her son's social status, she crashes a birthday party to keep a close eve on him.

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### The Milky Way

13 NOV / WEDNESDAY @ 1:30PM at Golden Scene Cinema Israel | 2023 | Drama | 97 mins Hebrew with English subtitles



Tala, 33, an offbeat musician, just had her first baby. Desperate to make a living and support her kid with no father in the picture, she takes up a job at the "Milky Way", which sells breast milk to affluent parents. In this hipster, dystopic comedy, Tala embarks on a journey navigating the complexities of motherhood, while taking a glimpse into the wealthy lives she is supplying.

WINNER, Critics' Pick Special Jury Mention, Tallinn **Black Nights Film Festival 2023** 



## The Spoils

13 NOV / WEDNESDAY @ 7:00PM at Golden Scene Cinema Canada | 2024 | Documentary | 104 mins English, German with English subtitles Director: Jamie Kastner



For years, the Düsseldorf City Museum struggled to organize an exhibition in honor of Jewish art dealer Max tern. Originally planned for 2018, it was not held until 2021, delayed by discussions about the restitution of art oted by the Nazis. Through a combination of interviews and rarely seen stock footage, the film examines questions of ownership, history and morality that the Director views as symptomatic of a crisis in Germany and the art world at

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Director: Benny Fredman

13 NOV / WEDNESDAY @ 9:00PM at Golden Scene Cinema Israel | 2023 | Drama | 111 mins Hebrew with English subtitles



A newly married young man's ambition to open a computer store in his ultra-orthodox Jerusalem neighborhood turns into a shocking clash of tradition versus modernity. Devout yeshiva student Yair tries to support his family with a new ousiness, introducing outside technology into the cloistered community. Despite efforts to adhere to strict ultra-orthodox rules, he faces vehement opposition from some in the community. Rising tensions, the threat of violence, and marital strain, culminate in a decisive howdown, in this explosive drama based on true events.

WINNER, Best Actor (Roy Nik) and Best Supporting Actor (Dror Keren) Israeli Film Academy Awards 2023



## Call Me Dancer

14 NOV / THURSDAY @ 7:00PM at Golden Scene Cinema USA | 2023 | Documentary | 84 mins English, Hindi, Hebrew with English subtitles Directors: Pip Gilmour | Leslie Shampaine



Manish is a talented and athletic street dancer from Mumbai who dreams of becoming a professional against the wishes of his struggling parents. He meets a curmudgeonly Israeli ballet master who gives him the determination to keep going. Not just a story about dance, this film, shot in Israel, India, the U.K. and New York, is about human aspirations, challenges and relationships that touch the heart.

WINNER, Audience Award: Best Feature Documentary Annapolis FF; Best Film, Miami Jewish FF: Best of the Fest Audience Vote Feature Documentary, Palm Springs International FF 2024; WINNER, Young Jury Award Best Film, DOKUart International Documentary FF 2023 (and many more!)

The Green Family



#### The Performance

14 NOV / THURSDAY @ 8:40PM at Golden Scene Cinema USA, Slovakia | 2024 | Drama | 112 mins



Based on a short story by Arthur Miller set in 1937 fascist Germany, Jeremy Piven stars as Harold May, an assimilated American Jew and gifted tap dancer. Though he is nearly past his prime, he still longs for the success and status that have eluded him. While on tour in Europe, Harold and his troup are scouted by a German attaché who offers them a huge sum to perform in Berlin. As the troup's lives become intertwined, Harold is faced with a choice: either keep his Judaism a secret for the sake of his dreams or, ironically, own up to who he really is in order to escape. Interspersed with old footage from Nazi Germany, and sensational dance scenes, the film explores issues around success and identity that are so timely today

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# Family Heirloom

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16 NOV / SATURDAY @ 7:30PM at Golden Scene Cinema USA | 2021 | Short Comedy Drama | 14 mins English



Guy is finally ready to propose to his girlfriend, Emily. When he visits Emily's father Marty to ask for his blessing Marty says yes, but only if Guy can pass a twisted test to prove his devotion. How far will Guy go for the woman he

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#### All About the Levkoviches

16 NOV / SATURDAY @ 7:30PM at Golden Scene Cinema Hungary | 2024 | Drama | 85 mins Hungarian, Hebrew with English subtitles Director: Ádám Breier



This bittersweet family dramedy set in contemporary udapest tells the story of a generous, but stubborn elderly boxing coach who gets along well with everyone except his own son. After his wife's unexpected death he agrees to allow his estranged Orthodox son to sit shiva with him, as long as he brings the grandson he has never met. Stuck togther for the week long mourning period the two men are forced to face old grievances over their mutual love for the young boy. WINNER, Best Film Sofia International Film Festival

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# **Arugam Bay**

16 NOV / SATURDAY @ 9:30PM at Golden Scene Cinema Israel, Sri Lanka | 2023 | Drama | 97 mins Hebrew, English, Sinhala with English subtitles



In this touching and inspiring film, 3 Israeli surfers set out on a soul-searching journey to the magical southeast coast of Sri Lanka after completing their military service, seeking solace and closure after the tragic loss of a friend during a mission in Beirut. As they navigate their way through the tropical paradise of Arugam Bay, they encounter locals embracing a serene, unhurried life, and even forge connections with Iranian surfers. This transformative adventure puts the unbreakable bonds of their friendship to the test, as long-suppressed emotions and buried traumas resurface. With an outstanding ensemble cast featuring Joy Rieger ('June Zero', 'Image of Victory'), Yadin Gelman ('Victory'), and Maor Schwitzer ('Shtisel') in starring roles, Arugam Bay is a heart-healing odyssey that promises to captivate audiences.

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# The Return from the Other Planet

17 NOV / SUNDAY @ 1:00PM at Golden Scene Cinema Israel, Germany | 2023 | Documentary | 81 mins Hebrew, German, English, Dutch with English subtitles Director: Assaf Lapid



Were the atrocities of the concentration camps something that came from "another planet" or were they just the worst aspects of the world we live in? Ka.tzetnik ("The Man from the Camps") was a mysterious writer who was embraced by millions of readers around the world when, after the end of the Holocaust, he named Auschwitz, "The Other Planet". However, when he gains new understanding after undergoing controversial treatments for his trauma, his new message is largely overlooked.

WINNER, Best Documentary Research, Jerusalem Film Festival 2023



## The Anne Frank Gift Shop

17 NOV / SUNDAY @ 2:45PM at Golden Scene Cinema USA | 2023 | Short Comedy Drama | 15 mins



When a high-end design firm presents its plans to reimagine the gift shop at The Anne Frank House, the company's overt appeal to Generation Z sparks a debate about collective trauma, the Holocaust and tote bags. (Shortlisted for the 2024 Academy Award for Best Live Action Short.)

WINNER, Best Short Film Miami Film Festival 2024; WINNER, Audience Film Award: Best Short Film Philadelphia Jewish Film Festival; and San Francisco Jewish Film Festival, Best Short Film 2023

Supported by:

#### Giado: Holocaust in the Desert

17 NOV / SUNDAY @ 2:45PM at Golden Scene Cinema Israel | 2023 | Documentary | 55 mins Hebrew, Italian with English subtitles Directors: Golan Rise | Sharon Yaish



The story of the Holocaust of the Libyan Jews is almos completely unknown outside of the community of survivors. At the age of 20, Yosef Dadush was among 3,000 Jews from Benghazi taken to the Giado concentration camp in the heart of the desert. For seven decades he concealed a private diary, locked away in a closet at his home. Now, his granddaughter documents the harrowing existence endured by the inmates of the camp. Along wit her co-director, whose mother was also enslaved in the camp, they use interviews, animation, reconstructed models of the camp, and excepts from the diary to create this highly personal documentary. Supported by:

17 NOV / SUNDAY @ 4:20PM at Golden Scene Cinema USA, Israel | 2023 | Documentary | 51 mins Hebrew with English subtitles Directors: Paz Schwartz | Uriel Sinai



Tormented by his role in a 1950s Gaza assassination, Geizi Tsafrir, an elderly Israeli agent, seeks redemption. Reflecting on his time with Shin Bet (The Israeli Security Services) and the killing of an Egyptian lieutenant colonel, he decides to confront his past. He contacts the colonel's daughter, Nonie Darwish, once intent on avenging he father's death but now a prominent voice against radical Islam and a supporter of Israel. The mysterious email from Tsafrir sets Darwish on an emotional journey into her past, culminating in a meeting with him in Los Angeles. Telling Nonie explores intricate emotions, history's complexities, and the bumpy path toward mutual understanding and

WINNER, Audience Award, Punta del Este Jewish Film Festival 2024; WINNER, Best Israeli Documentary, Haifa International Film Festival 2023

In honor of Dr. Raphael Aharoni

## Martha Liebermann: A Stolen Life

17 NOV / SUNDAY @ 5:30PM at Golden Scene Cinema Germany, Czechia | 2022 | War, Drama | 88 mins German with English subtitles Director: Stefan Bühling



In 1943, at the height of the war, Martha Liebermann widow of the great impressionist painter Max Liebermann, is still living in Berlin but scheming to escape abroad and avoid deportation to a concentration camp. Desperate to protect her precious collection of art, including two portraits by Swedish painter Anders Zorn, the 85 year old Liebermann, plays an intriguing cat and mouse game with the local Gestapo commissioner and his henchman. Themes of trust, duplicity, resilence, feminist courage and eduring passion for art are brought to startling life in this

entertaining dramatic film based on true events WINNER, Best Film and Best Actress (Thekla Carola Wied) Monte-Carlo TV Awards, 2022

Supported by: Consultate General of the Federal Republic of German

## Highway 65

17 NOV / SUNDAY @ 7:30PM at Golden Scene Cinema Israel, France | 2024 | Feature, Drama | 109 mins English, Hebrew with English subtitles Director: Maya Dreifuss



Banished from the action in Tel Aviv, 40 year old Daphna ('Srugim's' Tali Sharon), a promising detective with a big mouth, finds herself in small-town Afula, dealing with petty crimes, seeking shade from the scorching heat, taking care of her aggressive cat and dodging the nagging question "When are you going to get married and have children?" Daphna's world is shaken by the sudden disappearance of Orly Elimeleh, a wild army widow known for her beauty. Soon enough, a troubling question creeps in: "why isn't anybody looking for her?" Fearing the worst, Daphna will stop at nothing in order to solve the mystery. As her faith both in herself and in everybody surrounding her is called into question, Daphna will have to do something she has managed to avoid her entire adult life; put her trust in a man. Also starring Idan Amedi of 'Fauda'

WINNER, Grand Prix Award, Reims Polar Film Festival: and Special Mention Israeli Feature Film Competition, Jerusalem Film Festival 2024

Sponsored by: Shirley Dirkin and Perry Frey

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Italy, France, Germany | 2023 | Drama, History | 134 mins



soldiers burst into the home of the Mortara family. By order of the cardinal, they have come to take Edgardo, their seven-year-old son. The child had been secretly baptized by his nurse as a baby and the papal law is unquestionable: he must receive a Catholic education. Edgardo's parents, distraught, will do anything to get their son back. Supported by public opinion and the international Jewish community, the Mortaras' struggle quickly takes a political dimension. Veteran Italian flimmaker Marco Bellocchio brings this harrowing story of interfities conflict to life in this bactfolt theillar. Pased on interfaith conflict to life in this heartfelt thriller. Based on

WINNER, Best Film, Golden Globes, Italy 2023, Best Rooster Awards International 2023 (Paolo Pierobon)

### The Monkey House

19 NOV / TUESDAY @ 7:30PM at Golden Scene Cinema Israel, Italy | 2023 | Drama Comedy | 121 mins Hebrew, Italian with English subtitles



Former best-selling novelist Amitai Kariv's career started with a bang: his first 4 novels were award-winning best sellers. His great sacrifice - no wife, no kids, no life outside of writing - seemed to have paid off. But his next two novels are flops and soon publishing houses lose interest in his output, while academic circles dub him a mere literary footnote. Amitai's inevitable midlife crises is particularly acute as his life's work seems to have amounted to nothing. Desperate times call for desperate measures. The usually aboveboard Amitai feels that he has no choice but to put together a master plan, a perfect crime if you will, that will restore his fame and resurrect his fortune. Beautifully shot, with wonderful acting, the fim examines Israeli society with irreverent humor and

20 NOV / WEDNESDAY @ 7:30PM at Golden Scene Cinema Israel | 2023 | Drama, War | 113 mins Hebrew with English subtitles



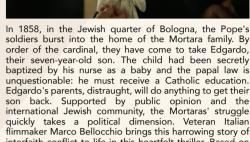
October 5, 1973, the day before war breaks out, hippy-ish Dr. Nahum Werbin ('Shtisel's' Michael Aloni) arrives at a desolate Sinai outpost to the sound of blaring rock music wearing white sneakers and pukka shells, expecting nothing more taxing than giving out aspirin and blister cream. As the base comes under siege after a surprise Egyptian attack, the surviving soldiers must choose between following their idealistic commander into a final. and likely hopeless battle, or to go along with the unit's level-headed doctor, whose plan will save their lives - but will betray their values. Based on the memories of the soldiers who were there, the film is both a thrilling, and terrifying, memorial to the 50th anniversary of the Yom

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# **Kidnapped: The Abduction of Edgardo Mortara** 18 NOV | MONDAY | 7:30PM





Director and Best Actor (Paolo Pierobon) Golden Golden Rooster Awards International 2023











The Stronghold

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