

SPRING 2018
CINEMONDAYS
APRIL 9-MAY 14

PHILA
DELPHIA
JEWISH
FILM
FEST



A Program of
THE GERSHMAN



PJFF CINEMONDAYS celebrates its
5th anniversary season with six new films that
exemplify the best in Jewish international cinema.

GI JEWS: JEWISH AMERICANS IN WORLD WAR II

Monday, April 9 | 7 PM | Prince Theater



PHILADELPHIA PREMIERE

Nearly 550,000 Jewish American men and women risked their lives to fight against fascism, bigotry, and intolerance during World War II. **GI JEWS: JEWISH AMERICANS IN WORLD WAR II** tells the story of these courageous veterans in their own words. From famous personalities like director Mel Brooks and former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger to unknown servicemen like Alan Moskin and Eliot Herman, director Lisa Ades pulls together a fascinating collection of voices.

Directed by Lisa Ades
Documentary Feature
USA | 2017 | 88 min
English

Sponsored by: Jan Felman and Harvey Schwartz

Special Event: Post-film discussion with director Lisa Ades and author Deborah Dash Moore (*GI Jews: How World War II Changed a Generation*) followed by opening night reception

Official Selection: Atlanta Jewish Film Festival | Miami Jewish Film Festival | Palm Beach Jewish Film Festival

The story behind the 10,000 Jewish women who volunteered to fill important administrative and nursing roles in the US Army, Navy, and Air Force is particularly enthralling. Defying their parents' warning that the military was "no life for a nice Jewish girl," these servicewomen were just as determined as their male counterparts to free their European brethren from religious persecution and annihilation. For American Jews, WWII was more than just a war. It was about Jewish integration into the American fabric, preserving the democratic ideals they held dear, and putting an end to the bloodshed of their people.

When the war ended, our nation's Jewish servicemen and women emerged transformed, more powerfully American and deeply connected to their Jewish roots. Many returned more resolute than ever to continue the fight for equality and religious tolerance at home. The extraordinary experiences of these brave Americans are the heart of PJFF's CineMondays 2018 Opening Night film.

THE LAST SUIT

Monday, April 16 | 7 PM | Ritz East



Directed by Pablo Solarz
Narrative Feature
Spain, Argentina | 2017 | 93 min
Spanish with English subtitles

Official Selection: Atlanta Jewish Film Festival | Busan International Film Festival | Jerusalem Jewish Film Festival | Santa Barbara International Film Festival

Awards: Audience Award for Best Narrative at the Atlanta Jewish Film Festival | Nueva Vision Award for Spain/Latin America at the Santa Barbara Film Festival

PHILADELPHIA PREMIERE

Abraham Bursztein (Miguel Ángel Solá) is a sprightly 88-year-old Jewish tailor who refuses to bow down to family pressure and move into an assisted living residence. After his children sell his Buenos Aires home, he is certain that there is nothing left for him in Argentina and prepares to embark on the most important journey of his life.

Fueled by his sense of duty, Abraham resolves to fulfill an important promise he had made as a young man. After surviving Auschwitz, he returned to Poland frail and depleted. With no family left to care for him, his friend, Piotrek, took him in and nursed him back to health. Beholden to Piotrek for saving his life, Abraham vowed to return to Poland some day and tell his friend of the meaningful life he would live. After seven decades in South America with only his memories, the integrity of his word, and a kindly cast of strangers to aid his journey, the sharply dressed suit maker travels to Europe in search of the man who made his life possible.

Writer-director Pablo Solarz imbues this heartfelt and humorous tearjerker with sepia-toned nostalgia and a klezmer-infused score, reminding us of the power of friendship in the face of adversity.

For trailers and up-to-date information, please visit Gershmany.org or PJFF.org | 215-545-4400

AN ACT OF DEFIANCE

Monday, April 23 | 7 PM | The Gershman Y



Directed by Jean van de Velde
Narrative Feature
South Africa, Netherlands | 2017
123 min
English and Afrikaans with
English subtitles

**Sponsored by: Glenmede, and
Ruth Perlmutter in memory of
Archie Perlmutter**

Official Selection: Atlanta Jewish Film
Festival | Mill Valley Film Festival |
Nederlands Film Festival | Palm Beach
Jewish Film Festival | Seattle Jewish
Film Festival | UK Jewish Film Festival

Awards: Audience Award for World
Cinema Independent at the Mill Valley
Film Festival | Best Actor and Best
Screenplay of a Feature Film at the
Nederlands Film Festival

PHILADELPHIA PREMIERE

Based on real events, this award-winning historical thriller follows the fate of Nelson Mandela and his inner circle of Black and Jewish anti-Apartheid fighters after their arrests during a raid in Rivonia, South Africa, in the summer of 1963.

Bram Fischer (Peter Paul Muller), a tenacious Afrikaner lawyer, risks his career, family, and freedom to represent ten Rivonia trial defendants against charges of conspiracy to commit sabotage and treason against the South African government. As he fights to expose the corruption integral to the country's system of Apartheid, he goes to great lengths to keep his ties to the resistance hidden. While the prosecution gains momentum, Bram's defense embraces a new strategy that focuses on proving that the African National Congress' resistance is justified in their actions. With Mandela preparing to die for his beliefs, it is clear that no matter what the verdict reads, there will be no turning back.

This exciting courtroom drama skillfully combines nail-biting political intrigue with thoughtful insight into the personal struggles of those most central to South Africa's groundbreaking battle against racism and white supremacy. Expertly crafted, **AN ACT OF DEFIANCE** is a soulful account of a crucial moment in the history of South Africa.

THE COUSIN

Monday, April 30 | 7 PM | The Gershman Y



Directed by Tzahi Grad
Narrative Feature
Israel | 2017 | 93 min
Hebrew and Arabic with
English subtitles

Official Selection: Haifa International Film Festival | Mill Valley Film Festival | Venice International Film Festival | Warsaw Film Festival

Awards: Fedeora Award for Artistic Achievement in an Israeli Feature Film and Michael Shvili Award for Best Actor at the Haifa International Film Festival

PHILADELPHIA PREMIERE

A well-intentioned Palestinian handyman upends the day-to-day lives of Israeli locals in this darkly comic thriller from writer/director/star Tzahi Grad.

Shortly after Fahed (Ala Dakka) arrives for his new job rehabbing a local media personality's crumbling old studio apartment, a neighborhood teen reports to be the victim of a sexual assault. Fahed, who was seen speaking to the girl earlier that morning, is accused of the crime and taken in for questioning. Naftali (Grad), the liberal-leaning Israeli actor who hired Fahed for the job in the first place, wants to believe in his innocence. However, once the dubiousness of friends, family, and neighbors begins to wear Naftali down, his dormant xenophobic attitudes cloud his best intentions.

Grad's provocative examination of the innate prejudice that exists within Israel today is a feat any modern society attempting to come to terms with its demons can relate to. Evoking some comparisons to Jordan Peele's 2017 hit *Get Out*, **THE COUSIN** is an edge of your seat genre-bender guaranteed to get audiences talking.



BOTH HUMOROUS AND EXPLOSIVE,
'THE COUSIN' IS A SPIRITED TAKE ON AN IRRATIONAL DIVIDE.
ALA DAKKA IS COMPELLING... IN A PERFORMANCE THAT KEEPS
YOU GUESSING UNTIL THE END."

DAVID ROONEY, *THE HOLLYWOOD REPORTER*

MR. & MRS. ADELMAN

Monday, May 7 | 7 PM | Ritz East



“
**THE FINAL REVEAL
GLORIOUSLY PULLS
THE RUG OUT** JUST AS WE
THOUGHT WE'D GLEANED A SLIVER
OF TRUTH – MAKING THIS SINUOUS
(AND HUGELY ADDICTIVE) TALE ALL
THE MORE CAPTIVATING!”

FRANCE TODAY

Directed by Nicolas Bedos
Narrative Feature
France, Belgium | 2017 | 120 min
French with English subtitles

Sponsored by:
Patricia Saddier-Dana

Official Selection: Atlanta Jewish
Film Festival | Hamptons International
Film Festival | New York Jewish Film
Festival | Palm Beach Jewish Film
Festival

Awards: Audience Award for Best
Narrative Feature at the Hamptons
International Film Festival

PHILADELPHIA PREMIERE

Nicolas Bedos and Doria Tillier co-write and co-star in this stylish and witty award-winning French dramedy about the highs, lows, passions, and betrayals of a 40-year marriage.

Sarah, a vivacious journalism student, is determined to make Victor fall in love with her. Unfortunately, after a one-night stand, Victor gives Sarah the cold shoulder and refuses her attempts to make contact. Instead of longing after Victor, Sarah opts to date his brother and his best friend to spur his jealousy. When her plan succeeds, Sarah and Victor begin a passionate love affair that culminates with plans to marry and start a family. However, like in any good tragicomedy, happiness is fleeting in **MR. & MRS. ADELMAN**.

It's hard to deny the on-screen chemistry between Bedos and Tillier. Watching them vacillate between love and hate, tipping the scales of power back and forth between them, is part of what makes this smart and ambitious film so relatable and larger than life. Whether it is money, drugs, or extra-marital affairs, nothing short of death is powerful enough to rip through the foundation the Adelmans built. Theirs is an epic love — wild, irrational, and fiercely tender.

HEADING HOME: THE TALE OF TEAM ISRAEL

Monday, May 14 | 5:30 PM + 8 PM | National Museum of American Jewish History



Directed by Seth Kramer, Daniel A. Miller
and Jeremy Newberger
Documentary Feature
USA, Israel, Japan, South Korea
2017 | 87 min
English

**Sponsored by: National Museum
of American Jewish History and
Larry and Cindy Rappoport**

Official Selection: Atlanta Jewish Film
Festival | Greater Phoenix Jewish Film
Festival | JCC Chicago Jewish Film
Festival

PHILADELPHIA PREMIERE *in honor of Israel70*

Closing out our 37th Annual Season with bases loaded, we head home with Israel's national baseball team as they compete in the World Baseball Classic for the first time in history.

After years of defeat, Team Israel proves they are underdogs no longer, finally ranking among the world's best teams in 2017 and eligible to play in the prestigious international tournament. With a lineup that features Jewish American Major League ballplayers like ex-New York Mets first baseman, Ike Davis, ex-Houston Astro, Josh Zeid, and ex-Braves catcher, Ryan Lavarney, no one expected Team Israel to make it as far as they did. Proving that they are much more than the has-beens their opponents anticipated, they take Israel and the world by storm. With their famous Mensch on a Bench mascot at their side, the teammates bond and discover what it means to represent their homeland on the world stage.

HEADING HOME: THE TALE OF TEAM ISRAEL

is a warm and inspirational documentary that celebrates the triumphs of a little team that could — and did — pave the way for future generations of Israeli ballplayers who aspire to win the World Baseball Classic for their homeland.



HEADING HOME IS A GRAND SLAM.

MICHAEL JACOBS, *ATLANTA JEWISH TIMES*

For trailers and up-to-date information, please visit Gershmany.org or PJFF.org | 215-545-4400

CINEMONDAYS TICKETS

4/9

**\$20 OPENING NIGHT FILM
GI JEWS: JEWISH AMERICANS
IN WORLD WAR II**

7:00 PM @ Prince Theater

Ticket includes admission to film and reception.

5/14

**\$20 CLOSING NIGHT FILM
HEADING HOME: THE TALE
OF TEAM ISRAEL**

8:00 PM @ National Museum of American Jewish History, ticket includes admission to film and reception.

Earlier screening at 5:30 PM costs \$15 and does not include reception.

**TICKETS FOR ALL OTHER
CINEMONDAYS SCREENINGS**

\$15 General Admission

\$13 Seniors

FREE! Students (Student ID must be presented at the box office)

To purchase tickets online, visit **PJFF.org**

SERIES PASS

\$90 All-Access Pass

(includes admission to post-film receptions)

Prince Theater

April 9

1412 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia
267-239-2941

Ritz East

April 16 & May 7

125 S. 2nd Street, Philadelphia
215-925-7900

The Gershman Y

April 23 & 30

401 S. Broad Street, Philadelphia
215-545-4400

**National Museum of American
Jewish History**

May 14

101 S. Independence Mall East
Philadelphia
215-923-3811

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