



NEW YORK JEWISH

FILM FESTIVAL

JAN 9 - 22, 2019
NYJFF.ORG



+

film
society
lincoln
center

Presented by the Jewish Museum and the Film Society of Lincoln Center

The Jewish Museum and the Film Society of Lincoln Center are delighted to continue their partnership to bring you the 28th annual New York Jewish Film Festival, presenting films from around the world that explore the diversity of Jewish experience.

This year's Festival presents a wonderful lineup of narratives, documentaries, and shorts, from restored classics to world, U.S., and N.Y. premieres.

Featuring *Promise at Dawn*, the epic drama starring Charlotte Gainsbourg and Pierre Niney; the thrilling Israeli miniseries *Autonomies*; and *Fig Tree*, a touching coming-of-age story set during the Ethiopian Civil War; the 2019 Festival includes a wide range of selections that will enthrall film lovers of all backgrounds.

TICKET INFO

ON SALE DATES

Members: **December 20**

General: **December 27**

Tickets can be purchased:

- NYJFF.org
- Film Society of Lincoln Center box office:
165 W 65th St, NYC

VENUES

Film Society of Lincoln Center

Walter Reade Theater, 165 W 65th St

Elinor Bunin Munroe Film Center, 144 W 65th St

TICKETS

Opening Night, Centerpiece, Closing Night

\$25 General Public

\$20 Jewish Museum and Film Society Members

Festival Screenings

\$15 General Public

\$12 Students, Seniors (62+), Persons with
Disabilities

\$10 Jewish Museum and Film Society Members

Panel Discussion and Master Class

Free; see opposite page for details.

SCHEDULE

WED, JAN 9

12:30 pm	Toman*
4 pm	Brussels Transit
7:30 pm	Promise at Dawn* (Opening Night)

THU, JAN 10

12:30 pm	Joseph Pulitzer: Voice of the People*
3 pm	Promise at Dawn
6 pm	Joseph Pulitzer: Voice of the People*
8:30 pm	Toman*

SAT, JAN 12

7 pm	A Tramway in Jerusalem*
9:30 pm	Echo

SUN, JAN 13

12:30 pm	The Ancient Law*
3:45 pm	A Tramway in Jerusalem*
4:30 pm	Panel Discussion: Pulitzer's World: The Role of the Media in a Fake News Universe – Amphitheater**
6:15 pm	Redemption*
9 pm	Seder Masochism*

MON, JAN 14

1 pm	Redemption*
3:45 pm	Seder Masochism*
6 pm	Chasing Portraits *
8:15 pm	Etgar Keret: Based on a True Story* <i>preceded by Torch</i>

TUE, JAN 15

1 pm	Black Honey: The Life and Poetry of Avraham Sutzkever* <i>preceded by</i> Triptych
3:30 pm	Camera Obscura*
6 pm	Black Honey: The Life and Poetry of Avraham Sutzkever* <i>preceded by</i> Triptych
8:30 pm	Camera Obscura*

WED, JAN 16

1 pm	Chasing Portraits*
3:30 pm	Etgar Keret: Based on a True Story* <i>preceded by Torch</i>
6 pm	Autonomies* <i>presented with</i> <i>intermission</i> (Centerpiece)

THU, JAN 17

1 pm	The Light of Hope*
3:30 pm	Who Will Write Our History*
6 pm	The Light of Hope*
8:30 pm	Who Will Write Our History*

SAT, JAN 19

7 pm	Pat Steir: Artist*
9:15 pm	Life According to Agfa <i>preceded by</i> Travelogue Tel Aviv

SUN, JAN 20

12:30 pm	City Without Jews
2:45 pm	Dear Fredy* <i>preceded by</i> Lon
4 pm	Master Class with Yehonathan Indursky (Autonomies) – Amphitheater**
5 pm	The Tobacconist
8 pm	Mack the Knife: Brecht's Threepenny Film

MON, JAN 21 – MLK DAY

1 pm	Mohamed and Anna: In Plain Sight* <i>preceded by</i> Five Years After the War
3 pm	Brussels Transit*
5:30 pm	Fig Tree* <i>preceded by</i> A Thousand Kisses
8:30 pm	Happiness of the World

TUE, JAN 22

12:30 pm	Fig Tree* <i>preceded by</i> A Thousand Kisses
3:15 pm	Happiness of the World
5:45 pm	Mohamed and Anna: In Plain Sight* <i>preceded by</i> Five Years After the War
8 pm	A Fortunate Man* (Closing Night)

* Filmmaker or speaker present

** Panel Discussion and Master Class Tickets

Free tickets will be distributed at the Elinor Bunin Munroe Film Center box office (144 West 65th Street) on a first-come, first-served basis starting one hour prior to the event. Limit one ticket per person, subject to availability.

OPENING NIGHT

N.Y. PREMIERE

Promise at Dawn

Eric Barbier, France, 2017, 131 min.

French with English subtitles

The great Jewish novelist Romain Gary, also known by the pen name Emile Ajar, was one of France's most prolific and popular writers of the mid-20th century, and the only person to win the Prix Goncourt twice. His autobiographical novel *Promise at Dawn* is a loose memoir, recounting his impoverished childhood in Poland, his time as a fighter pilot in WWII, early relationships in the

WED, JAN 9, 7:30 PM

THU, JAN 10, 3 PM

south of France, and most of all the unyielding love between him and his single mother. The book's drama and adventure lend themselves naturally to the big screen; this adaptation by Eric Barbier, starring Charlotte Gainsbourg and Pierre Niney, is a rollicking journey through a life richly lived.



Promise at Dawn

CENTERPIECE

U.S. PREMIERE

Autonomies

Yehonatan Indursky, Israel, 2018, 210 min.

Hebrew and Yiddish with English subtitles

Set in an alternate present where the state is brutally divided between the secular capital of Tel Aviv and a Jerusalem governed by an ultra-Orthodox "Haredi Autonomy," this dystopian thriller tells the story of a wheeler-dealer who smuggles contraband between the two regions and a little girl at the center of a secular-Orthodox custody battle. Israel is experiencing a golden age of episodic

WED, JAN 16, 6 PM

(presented with intermission)

television, turning out some of the finest narrative storytelling in any medium, and we'll screen all five episodes for a proper binge. *Autonomies* shows why Israel is fertile ground for powerful fiction: the series is a boiling cauldron of the issues of identity, religion, politics, and personal freedom that define life in the country today.



Autonomies

Master Class with Yehonatan Indursky

SUN, JAN 20, 4 PM

Free and Open to the Public

Join Yehonatan Indursky, writer and director of NYJFF Centerpiece selection *Autonomies*, for a master class on writing, directing, and producing for television and film. A writer and director of multiple films and television series (such as *Shtisel*,

which won 11 awards from the Israeli Academy of Television including Best Screenplay), Indursky will focus on the difference between creating for film and television, and the process behind *Autonomies*.

CLOSING NIGHT

N.Y. PREMIERE

A Fortunate Man

Bille August, Denmark, 2018, 162 min.

Danish with English subtitles

TUE, JAN 22, 8 PM

A gifted but self-destructive young man leaves his suffocating Lutheran upbringing in the country for the metropolitan Copenhagen of the 1880s. An engineer with progressive ideas, he is welcomed by a wealthy Jewish family and insinuates himself into their opulent milieu, embarking on a journey of personal and professional ambition that teeters on the razor's edge between triumph and catastrophe.

A sprawling story of grand scope and high romance from the Academy Award-winning director of *Pelle the Conqueror*, *A Fortunate Man* is a rare kind of film—beautifully realized, full of exceptional performances, and with a dramatic sweep on par with the great classics of cinema.



A Fortunate Man

MAIN SLATE FILMS

The Ancient Law

Ewald André Dupont, Germany, 1923, 135 min.

Silent (with English intertitles)

SUN, JAN 13, 12:30 PM

In a shtetl in Galicia, the son of a rabbi gets a bug for acting and is swept into a glamorous lifestyle, much to the chagrin of his more traditional father. Featuring a new score and live accompaniment by pianist Donald Sosin and klezmer violinist Alicia Svigals.



The Ancient Law

N.Y. PREMIERE

Black Honey: The Life & Poetry of Avraham Sutzkever

Uri Barbash, Israel, 2018, 76 min. Hebrew, English, and Yiddish with English subtitles

TUE, JAN 15, 1 & 6 PM

Preceded By

N.Y. PREMIERE

Triptych

Katia Lom, U.K., 2018, 8 min. English

The Russian-born poet Avraham Sutzkever wrote in Yiddish with wit and vitality through the Holocaust, saved hundreds of Jewish manuscripts from destruction, and testified at the Nuremberg trials. His story is a life-affirming exemplar of 20th century Jewish experience.

Using live action, animation, vintage artifacts, and photographs, director Katia Lom explores her family's history—including their escape from Czechoslovakia in 1951.

U.S. PREMIERE
OF THE RESTORATION

Brussels Transit

Samy Szlingerbaum, Belgium, 1980, 80 min.
Yiddish and French with English subtitles

WED, JAN 9, 4 PM
MON, JAN 21, 3 PM

In one of the first postwar films in Yiddish, director Samy Szlingerbaum masterfully weaves together the dramatic story of his parents' search for a home and haunting footage of postwar Brussels to explore the marginality of young Holocaust survivors in Europe after WWII.

Camera Obscura

Maria Victoria Menis, Argentina, 2008, 86 min.
Spanish and Yiddish with English subtitles

TUE, JAN 15, 3:30 & 8:30 PM

Shot on location in the lush forests, lagoons, and rivers of Buenos Aires province in a wondrous mélange of visual styles, *Camera Obscura* tells the story of an immigrant woman whose encounter with an itinerant photographer reveals a sense of self she never knew.



Camera Obscura

N.Y. PREMIERE

Chasing Portraits

Elizabeth Rynecki, USA/Canada/Israel/
Poland, 2018, 78 min. English and Polish
with English subtitles

MON, JAN 14, 6 PM
WED, JAN 16, 1 PM

After the Nazis invaded Poland in 1939, artist Moshe Rynecki left his collection of more than 800 paintings and sculptures with friends around Warsaw for safekeeping. But after his death in Majdanek, his work was dispersed. This documentary tells the compelling story of his great-granddaughter Elizabeth's quest to uncover the story of his extraordinary collection.

N.Y. PREMIERE
OF THE RESTORATION

The City Without Jews

Hans Karl Breslauer, Austria, 1924, 91 min.
Silent (with English Intertitles)

SUN, JAN 20, 12:30 PM

This 1924 silent masterpiece is one of few surviving Austrian Expressionist films and a chilling premonition of the Holocaust. Based on Hugo Bettauer's dystopian novel of the same name, it follows the rise of the Christian Social Party, which orders all Jews to evacuate Austria.

N.Y. PREMIERE

Dear Fredy

Rubi Gat, Israel, 2017, 74 min. Hebrew,
Czech, and English with English subtitles

SUN, JAN 20, 2:45 PM

This documentary tells the story of Fredy Hirsch, a remarkable openly gay German Jew who fled to the Czech Republic when the Nuremberg Laws were passed, became head of the youth department in the Ghetto Terezin, and set up a daycare center in his final, tragic days in Auschwitz.

Preceded By

Lon

Nina Landau, Belgium, 2018, 7 min.
Dutch with English subtitles

The inner life of a Belgian Jewish set designer, whose survival in a Nazi transit camp was fueled by the power of the human imagination, is given animated form in this arresting and beautiful short.



Dear Fredy

N.Y. PREMIERE

Echo

Amikam Kovner & Assaf Snir
Israel, 2018, 98 min. Hebrew with
English subtitles

SAT, JAN 12 9:30 PM

In this beautifully acted drama starring Yael Abecassis and Yoram Toledano, a man suspects his wife of infidelity and records her phone conversations. While he obsessively listens, she tragically dies in a car crash and the recordings become an investigation into a life he thought he knew.

U.S. PREMIERE

**Etgar Keret:
Based on a True Story**

Stephane Kaas, The Netherlands, 2017, 67 min.

English and Hebrew with English subtitles

MON, JAN 14, 8:15 PM

WED, JAN 16, 3:30 PM

Preceded By

U.S. PREMIERE

Torch

Odeya Rosnak, Israel, 2017, 17 min.

Hebrew with English subtitles

Israeli writer Etgar Keret is beloved and renowned for his surreal, delightful short stories. In this quirky portrait, filmmakers Stephane Kaas and Rutger Lemm journey deep into the young writer's past and motivations.

A creative and quirky teenage girl in Jerusalem who loses her father in a terror attack attends a torch lighting ceremony at a local community center with her mother on Memorial Day, an event that becomes a poignant moment of self-discovery.

U.S. PREMIERE

Fig Tree

Aälām-Wärqe Davidian, Israel/Germany/

France/Ethiopia, 2018, 93 min. Amharic

with English subtitles

MON, JAN 21, 5:30 PM

TUE, JAN 22, 12:30 PM

Mina is 16 years old and has lived with her brother and grandmother in the midst of the Ethiopian Civil War her entire life, but they are planning to flee for Israel. Mina is spending her last days in Addis Ababa with her Christian boyfriend Eli, who has been hiding in the woods to avoid being drafted into Mengistu Haile Mariam's army. This tender and poignant coming-of-age film is based on director Aälām-Wärqe Davidian's own experience.

In this animated short, a young Jewish couple in 1933 Berlin must separate, so they make plans to reunite on the safe tropical shores of Brazil.

Preceded By

U.S. PREMIERE

A Thousand Kisses

Richard Goldgewicht

Brazil/Ireland/Uruguay/USA, 2018, 16 min.

English and German with English subtitles



Fig Tree

N.Y. PREMIERE

Happiness of the World

Michal Rosa, Poland, 2016, 98 min.

Polish with English subtitles

MON, JAN 21, 8:30 PM

TUE, JAN 22, 3:15 PM

It's the summer of 1939 and Rose, a beautiful young Jewish woman, has three aggressive suitors, a Pole, a Silesian, and a German in an apartment building on the Polish-German border. This enchanting film follows them in their quixotic and comic days leading up to WWII.

N.Y. PREMIERE

**Joseph Pulitzer:
Voice of the People**

Oren Rudavsky, USA, 2018, 85 min. English

THU, JAN 10, 12:30 & 6 PM

Joseph Pulitzer began as a penniless Jewish immigrant from Hungary and grew into one of America's most admired and feared media figures. This revelatory documentary tells the story of the man behind the prize, who spoke of "fake news" and the importance of freedom of the press over a century ago. His newspaper *The New York World* spoke to an unprecedented number of readers and maintained powerful journalistic ideals through its ascent.

**Panel Discussion:
Pulitzer's World: The Role of the
Media In a Fake News Universe**

SUN, JAN 13, 4:30 PM

Presented in conjunction with the NYJFF Main Slate selection *Joseph Pulitzer: Voice of the People*. Join Jami Floyd, Host of "All Things Considered" on WNYC; Adam Moss, Editor-in-Chief of *New York* magazine; filmmaker Oren Rudavsky; and Jodi Rudoren, Associate Managing Editor, *The New York Times* for a multifaceted

conversation about press issues that percolate through the film, such as first amendment rights and limits; the future of investigative reporting; crusading journalism and "click-bait" sensationalism; and the relationship between the first page and the editorial page.

U.S. PREMIERE

The Light of Hope

Silvia Quer, Spain 2017, Spanish,

Catalan, French, 96 min.

THU, JAN 17, 1 & 6 PM

The Light of Hope is based on the true story of Elisabeth Eidenbenz, director of the Elne maternity home. During WWII, Eidenbenz and her female co-workers saved the lives of 600 infants by providing humane conditions for pregnant women fleeing Vichy refugee camps.

U.S. PREMIERE

Life According to Agfa

Assi Dayan, Israel, 1992, 100 min.

Hebrew with English subtitles

SAT, JAN 19, 9:15 PM

Preceded By

N.Y. PREMIERE

Travelogue Tel Aviv

Samuel Patthey, Switzerland, 2017, 6 min.



Life According to Agfa

In this touchstone of Israeli cinema, an assortment of Tel Aviv citizenry—Jews, Arabs, kibbutzniks, city-dwellers, and soldiers—gather in a bar to play out a series of bitter and ultimately tragic dramas over the course of one night.

A Swiss art student studying abroad captures Tel Aviv's vitality and boldness in this vibrant, impressionistic animation.

U.S. PREMIERE

**Mack the Knife:
Brecht's Threepenny Film**

Joachim Lang, Germany, 2018, 130 min.

German with English subtitles

SUN, JAN 20, 8 PM

After the premiere of Bertolt Brecht, Elisabeth Hauptmann, and Kurt Weill's *Threepenny Opera* in 1928, the work seemed destined for the silver screen: Brecht sought to make a socially conscious film, but the studio wanted a crowd pleaser. This fantastical and theatrical satire dramatizes his valiant attempt to adapt his opera to the screen.

U.S. PREMIERE

**Mohamed and Anna:
In Plain Sight**

Taliya Finkel, Germany/Israel, 2017,

58 min. English

MON, JAN 21, 1 PM

TUE. JAN 22, 5:45 PM

Preceded By

U.S. PREMIERE

Five Years After the War

Samuel Albaric & Martin Wiklund, France,

2017, 17 min. French with English subtitles

This animated short brings to explosive, exuberant life the wild fantasies of a Parisian man—the son of an absent Iraqi father and a Jewish mother—who is confounded by the modern world and trying to find his place in it.

WORLD PREMIERE

Pat Steir: Artist

Veronica Gonzalez Peña

USA, 2018, 74 min. English

SAT, JAN 19, 7 PM

A warmly intimate portrait of the groundbreaking painter and feminist Pat Steir, whose life and practice have been enlivened for half a century by her deep friendships and alliances with the most influential artists and poets of her generation.

N.Y. PREMIERE

Redemption

Joseph Madmony & Boaz Yehonatan Yacov

Israel, 2018, 104 min.

Hebrew with English subtitles

SUN, JAN 13, 6:15 PM

MON, JAN 14, 1 PM

Once the front man of a popular rock band, Menachem is now deeply religious. When his six-year-old daughter is diagnosed with cancer, he gets the band back together for a reunion tour to pay the bills.

N.Y. PREMIERE

Seder Masochism

Nina Paley, USA, 2018, 78 min.

English, French, Bulgarian, Hebrew, and Aramaic with English subtitles

SUN, JAN 13, 9 PM

MON, JAN 14, 3:45 PM

Animator Nina Paley brings us a wildly playful and imaginative retelling of the Book of Exodus in musical form. The Burning Bush does a rendition of Louis Armstrong and Pharaoh sings "I Will Survive," among other antics.



Seder Masochism

U.S. PREMIERE
The Tobacconist

Nikolaus Leytner, Germany, 2018,
German, 108 min.

SUN, JAN 20, 5 PM

A young tobacco shop apprentice in Nazi occupied Vienna falls in love with a music hall dancer and turns to Sigmund Freud, a regular customer and unlikely new friend, for advice in this beautifully realized wartime drama starring Bruno Ganz as Sigmund Freud.

U.S. PREMIERE
Toman

Ondřej Trojan, Czech Republic/Slovakia,
2018, 145 min. Czech with English subtitles

WED, JAN 9, 12:30 PM

THU, JAN 10, 8:30 PM

Zdenek Toman is a controversial and singular character in modern Czech politics. *Toman* tells the story of the unscrupulous careerist and politician who was also the unlikely savior of thousands of Jewish refugees after WWII.

U.S. PREMIERE
A Tramway in Jerusalem

Amos Gitai, Israel/France, 2018, 94 min.
Hebrew, Arabic, French, English, and German
with English subtitles

SAT, JAN 12, 7 PM

SUN, JAN 13, 3:45 PM

A series of poignant and humorous encounters along the Light Rail Red Line, which connects Jerusalem from east to west from Palestinian to Israeli neighborhoods, reveal the city's diverse mosaic of humanity and offer a kernel of hope for mutual understanding. With Mathieu Amalric.



A Tramway in Jerusalem

N.Y. PREMIERE
Who Will Write Our History

Roberta Grossman, Poland/USA, 2018, 95 min.
English, Polish, and Yiddish with English subtitles

THU, JAN 17, 3:30 & 8:30 PM

When the Nazis created the Warsaw Ghetto, a group of scholars, journalists, and community leaders, led by historian Emanuel Ringelblum, conducted a secret effort to document the fate of the 450,000 Jews sealed within. These testimonies comprise perhaps the most important archive of original material compiled by Jews during the Holocaust.

FUNDERS

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The Film Society of Lincoln Center receives additional support for the New York Jewish Film Festival from the Jack & Pearl Resnick Foundation.

SELECTION COMMITTEE

This year's New York Jewish Film Festival was selected by Rachel Chanoff, Director, THE OFFICE performing arts + film; Gabriel Grossman, Coordinator, New York Jewish Film Festival/the Jewish Museum; Miriam Niedergang, short film curatorial consultant;

and Aviva Weintraub, Associate Curator, the Jewish Museum and Director, New York Jewish Film Festival; with Dennis Lim, Director of Programming, Film Society of Lincoln Center, as adviser.

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The Jewish Museum is under the auspices of The Jewish Theological Seminary.

THE JEWISH MUSEUM

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Cover Image: *Mack the Knife*: Brecht's *Threepenny Film*

