



Crest Theatre: February 20-23, 2025
Streaming: February 24-March 9, 2025

SACRAMENTO JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL

26TH ANNUAL



2130 21st Street
Sacramento CA 95818

Inspirational films that tell the Jewish story for audiences everywhere



Regional Filmlover
2130 21st Street
Sacramento CA 95818

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HIGHLIGHTS

TRIBUTE



Please join us for a special Friday matinee film presentation of *Love in Suspenders*, preceded by a video tribute to Anne Eisenberg (ז"ל). The Sacramento Jewish Film Festival will honor the memory of this long-time festival volunteer, former Jewish Federation Associate Director, JCRC Director, and NCJW President. Anne Eisenberg was a member of our fabulous film selection team for many years and *Love in Suspenders* was one of her favorite films.



FAMILY-FRIENDLY

Our annual family-friendly film *Call Me a Dancer* features a Mumbai hip-hop dancer who has a chance encounter with a curmudgeonly Israeli ballet master. Following the film, we will be treated to a live performance of dancers from McClatchy High School's Performing Arts Academy.

CLOSING NIGHT

Our Closing Night film *Sabbath Queen* features the life of Rabbi Amichai Lau-Lavie and his quest to creatively and radically reinvent religion and ritual. After the film, we will be joined by Reform Rabbi Mona Alfi from Congregation B'nai Israel, Conservative Rabbi Ben Herman from Mosaic Law Congregation, and Orthodox Rabbi Evan Rubin from Knesset Israel Torah Center, to lead a discussion about the film.



CENTERPIECE

Don't miss our Saturday night centerpiece film *Bad Shabbos*, about an Upper West Side New York City Shabbat dinner gone wrong. Filmmaker Dan Robbins will join us for a conversation after the film.



We need your support for our Film Festival. Not only will you save on the cost of film passes, but you will join a community that believes in the value of telling the Jewish story. You will also have access to our Saturday night Sponsors-Only Reception! Sponsorship levels and benefits for individuals can be found below. If you would like to promote your business and have an ad in our program and on screen, please visit our website and look for the Support the Festival page.

2025 INDIVIDUAL SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

	FILM STAR \$2,500	LUMINARY \$2,000	BENEFACTOR \$1,000	CINEMATOGRAPHER \$750	SCREENWRITER \$500	FILM BUFF \$250	FRIEND OF THE FESTIVAL \$36
Film Sponsorship	●	●	●				
All-Festival Passes (Crest Theatre & Streaming)	8	6	4	3	2	1	
Sponsors-Only Reception	2	2	2	2	2	1*	
Flat Parking Rate: \$3	●	●	●	●	●	●	
Program Listing	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

- **DEADLINE FOR PROGRAM INCLUSION: JANUARY 13, 2025**
- **Deadline for Website + Social Media Inclusion: February 1, 2025**
- **All sponsorship payments must be received by February 1, 2025**

*Additional Reception Ticket: \$36

TICKETS

Crest Theatre \$18
Streaming \$15
Next Gen (under 35) \$5

PASSES

Crest Theatre only \$150
Streaming only \$125
All-festival \$225
Next Gen (under 35) \$50



LIVE @ THE CREST THEATRE: FEBRUARY 20, 21, 22, 23

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20



THE BLOND BOY FROM THE CASBAH [NORTHERN CAL PREMIERE]

4:00pm, France, Docudrama, 2023, 126 min
Filmmaker Antoine Lisner travels to his birthplace, Algiers, with his young son to present his new film: an account of his childhood in mid-20th-century Algeria during the country's War of Independence.

Proudly sponsored by Hebrew Free Loan Association
In partnership with the Sacramento French Film Festival



JANICE IAN: BREAKING SILENCE

6:40pm, USA, Documentary, 2024, 111 min
As a teenager in the mid-60's, singer-songwriter Ian launched her career with the controversial "Society's Child" and the mega-hit "At Seventeen." For the next six decades she overcame homophobia, industry misogyny, and a life-threatening illness to produce an indelible body of work.

Proudly sponsored by PBS KVIE



BLISS (Hemda)

9:00pm, Israel, Drama, 2024, 125 min
A tender and wise love story about a couple whose love transcends social norms, financial struggles, and past mistakes. Set among the diverse population in the Galilee — including Jews and Arabs, religious and secular, immigrants and native born — *Bliss* tackles the situation in Israel today in an original, human, illuminating way.

Proudly sponsored by Dorit Hertz & Teven Laxer

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21



LOVE IN SUSPENDERS

1:00pm, Israel, Romantic Comedy, 2019, 93 min
A sweet, romantic comedy about a love in the autumn of life. The film will be preceded by a tribute to Anne Eisenberg (z''), who selected this film in 2019 and was a long-time volunteer and sponsor of the festival.



WELCOME TO YIDDISHLAND [WESTERN US PREMIERE]

3:10pm, USA, Documentary, 2024, 95 min
A fascinating cultural history and timely exploration of a global movement of artists reviving the ancient and endangered Yiddish language. An upbeat, witty look at ways in which they've found solace, identity, and inspiration from its rich traditions.

Proudly sponsored by Janet Saunders & Roy Kaplan

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22



BAD SHABBOS

7:45pm, USA, Comedy, 2024, 93 min
An engaged interfaith couple are about to have their parents meet for the first time over a Shabbat dinner when an accidental death gets in the way. A hilarious night-in-New-York story spun from a brilliant ensemble that hits on pure comedic gold. With Kyra Sedgwick, Cliff "Method Man" Smith, and Milana Vayntrub.

Proudly sponsored by Uptown Studios

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23



CALL ME DANCER

10:00am, USA, Documentary, 2023, 84 min
Our annual Family Film features a street dancer from Mumbai who struggles against his parents' insistence that he follow a traditional path. Mentored by a curmudgeonly Israeli ballet master, he must push his physical limits to compete in the world of ballet.

Proudly sponsored by Brenda Jew Waters



RUNNING ON SAND

12:30pm, Israel, Drama, 2023, 104 min
A young Eritrean refugee about to be deported from Israel evades the police, and is mistaken for a professional Nigerian soccer player. He pretends to be the star recruit he was mistaken for, covering up his lack of soccer talent — and bonding with the daughter of the team's owner.

Proudly sponsored by B Street Theatre



MIDAS MAN

2:45pm, United Kingdom, Docudrama, 2024, 112 min
This biopic introduces us to Brian Epstein, who masterminds The Beatles' meteoric rise, navigating a whirlwind of unprecedented fame, cultural revolution — and personal demons. A Jewish, closeted 26-year-old running a Liverpool record store when he first saw The Beatles perform in 1961, Epstein's journey is a rollercoaster of ambition, passion, and relentless pursuit of greatness.



SABBATH QUEEN

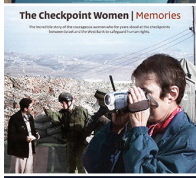
5:10pm, USA, Documentary, 2024, 105 min
Sabbath Queen follows Rabbi Amichai Lau-Lavie's 20-year journey as the dynastic heir of 38 generations of Orthodox rabbis. Torn between rejecting and embracing his destiny, Amichai seeks to radically reinvent religion and ritual, challenge patriarchy, and champion interfaith love and peace in Israel/Palestine. The film interrogates what Jewish survival means in a difficult rapidly changing 21st century.

STREAMING: FEBRUARY 24–MARCH 9



AVENUE OF THE GIANTS

USA, Drama, 2023, 102 min
The true story of Herbert Heller, who kept his miraculous escape from Auschwitz a secret for 60 years, even from his family, until he meets Abbey, a young, troubled teenager who inspires him to open up.



CHECKPOINT WOMEN: MEMORIES [NORTHERN CAL PREMIERE]

Israel, Documentary, 2023, 60 min
A group of Israeli women, most of them in their 60s, established *Machsom* Watch to guard the human rights of those passing through the checkpoints between Israel and the West Bank.



COLLEYVILLE

USA, Documentary, 2024, 80 min
This powerful documentary offers exclusive never-before-seen footage from the 11-hour antisemitic hostage situation that gripped the world.



HERE LIVED

USA, Documentary, 2023, 79 min
Gunter Demnig's *Stolpersteine* (Stumbling Stones) project provides the pathway from one of the most egregious wrongs of history to individual and community reconciliation throughout Europe.



HIGHWAY 65

Israel/France, Drama, 2024, 102 min
Daphna, 41, until recently a promising detective in Tel Aviv, tries to solve the mystery of the sudden disappearance of Orly Elimeleh, a captivating army widow



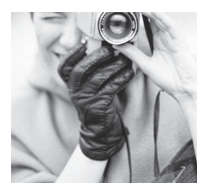
IS THAT YOU?

Israel/Canada, USA, Comedy, 2014, 81 min
A romantic road trip exploring second chances and self-discovery as Ronnie, a 60-year-old, searches for his old love and the path he never chose. Ronnie embarks on a heartfelt journey.



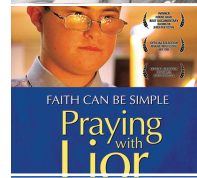
KISSUFIM

Israel, Drama, 2023, 88 min
A group of 20-year-old Israeli soldiers decide to volunteer on a kibbutz as they go through the final stage of their army service. The film explores the tough reality and new possibilities.



A PHOTOGRAPHIC MEMORY

USA, Documentary, 2024, 87 min
Director Rachel Elizabeth Seed — only 18 months old when her mother, the world-travelling journalist Sheila Turner-Seed, died suddenly — explores the legacy and art of her mother's photography.



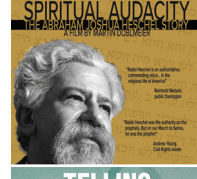
PRAYING WITH LIOR

USA, Documentary, 2008, 87 min
Praying with Lior asks whether someone with Down syndrome can be a spiritual genius. As this documentary moves to its climax, Lior must pass through the gateway to manhood — his Bar Mitzvah.



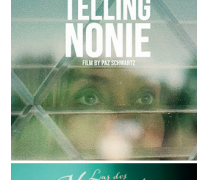
SKY RAIDERS

Israel, Drama, 2019, 103 min
13-year-old Yotam and his classmate, Noa, find a rare antique plane and team up with an 80-year-old former pilot and try to bring the plane back to life.



SPIRITUAL AUDACITY

USA, Documentary, 2021, 57 min
Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel was one of the most remarkable and inspiring American figures of the 20th century and was a pioneer in the critical work of interfaith dialogue.



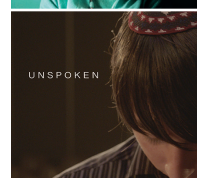
TELLING NONIE

Israel/USA, Documentary, 2023, 51 min
Tormented by his role in a 1950s Gaza assassination, Geizi Tsafrir, an elderly Israeli agent, seeks redemption. Reflecting on his time with *Shin Bet*, he decides to confront his past.



THE TWO MARIETTES

Argentina, Documentary, 2023, 80 min
A secret kept for 70 years and a woman, Mariette, who dares to tell it. A film that follows the perspectives of four generations when what has been hidden finally comes to light.



UNSPOKEN

USA, Drama, 2023, 91 min
The story of Noam, a closeted teenager in a religious community who discovers that he might not be alone when he finds a love letter written to his grandfather by another man before the Holocaust.

sacjewishfilmfest.org

All film and schedule information is subject to change

SJFF is committed to making films accessible for deaf and hard-of-hearing filmgoers.

Foreign-language and English-language content will be subtitled or have closed captions.