

Berkshire Jewish Film Festival

Monday July 9, 2007

8:00 PM

An evening of short films



Bespoke Overcoat



Brooklyn: Among the Ruins



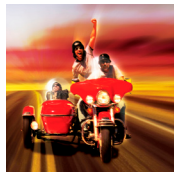
Under the Roller Coaster



West Bank Story

Monday July 16, 2007

4:00 PM



39 Pounds of Love

8:00 PM



I Have Never Forgotten You
The Life & Legacy of
Simon Wiesenthal

Monday July 30, 2007

4:00 PM



A Kid for Two Farthings

8:00 PM



Toots

Monday August 6, 2007

4:00 PM



Bernie

8:00 PM



The Ritchie Boys

Monday August 13, 2007

4:00 PM



51 Birch Street

8:00 PM



Black Book

Monday August 20, 2007

4:00 PM



Obsession

Radical Islam's War Against the West

8:00 PM



Constantine's Sword

All Shows at the Duffin Theatre - Lenox Memorial Middle/High School

Film screenings - 8:00 PM**July 9 - Bespoke Overcoat**

UK, 1956 33 mins.

Director: Jack Clayton

Bespoke Overcoat, 1956 Academy Award winning best short film, was adapted from the short story "The Overcoat" by Nikolai Gogol. This fantasy is about a poor elderly clothing store clerk who longs to own a warm overcoat from the factory where he has worked for most of his lifetime. When denied this covering to replace his threadbare coat by his miserly boss, the clerk persuades a tailor friend to make him a duplicate coat. Not being able to afford the coat, the clerk dies of pneumonia. His ghost appears before the tailor persuading him to steal the overcoat the clerk wanted in the first place.

July 9 - Brooklyn: Among the Ruins

USA, 2005 14 mins.

Director: Suzanne Wasserman

Paul Kronenberg explains his unusual world-view as he presents, housed in his tiny bedroom in Brooklyn, the life-size replica of a 1930's-era subway car.

July 9 - Under the Roller Coaster

USA, 2005 15 mins.

Director: Lila Place

This enchanting film examines the true life experience of Mae Timpano and her unique relationship to Coney Island, living under the famed Thunderbolt Roller Coaster. To thousands the roller coaster was a Coney Island icon, but for Mae it was where she made her home. This nostalgic look at the famed amusement park provides a view of Coney Island rarely seen by the public.

In Person: Filmmaker Lila Place

July 9 - West Bank Story

USA, 2005 21 mins.

Director: Ari Sandel

A little singing - a little dancing - a little hummus! West Bank Story is a musical comedy about David, an Israeli soldier, and Fatima, a Palestinian fast food cashier - an unlikely couple who fall in love amid the animosity of their families' dueling falafel stands in the West Bank. Winner of the 2006 academy award for best live action short film.

Film screening - 4:00 PM**July 16 - 39 Pounds of Love**

Israel, 2005 English/Hebrew with subtitles 70 mins.

Director: Dani Menkin

As a child, Israeli animator Ami Ankilewitz was diagnosed with a rare form of muscular dystrophy and given six years to live. Now 34 years old and weighing only 39 pounds, Ami sets out with his friends on a road trip across the United States with two goals: finding the doctor who first diagnosed him and riding a Harley-Davidson. Though his movement is now limited to a single finger on his left hand, Ami creates the cartoon characters which grace this moving and utterly delightful film.

Film Screening - 8:00 PM**July 16 - I Have Never Forgotten You:****The Life and Legacy of Simon Wiesenthal**

USA, Ukraine, Vienna 2007 105 mins.

Director: Richard Trank

In this film Richard Trank draws the audience into the complex life of his hero Simon Wiesenthal. Actress Nicole Kidman narrates this moving tribute to the legendary Nazi hunter and humanitarian. Featured are interviews with government leaders around the world, friends and family and previously unseen archival film and photos. Traveling the routes of Wiesenthal's past and that of the many fugitives that Wiesenthal tracked down, this documentary portrays this remarkable man. The filmmaker examines "What was the driving force behind his work? What kept him going when for years the odds were against his efforts? What is his legacy today, more than 60 years after the end of World War II?"

Film screening - 4:00 PM**July 30 - A Kid for Two Farthings**

UK, 1955 96 mins.

Director: Carol Reed

Featured in the Classics Section of the 2006 Cannes Film Festival, this magical, quirky gem demonstrates the power of hope amidst hardship. Joe, a spunky little boy, lives with his mother above old Mr. Kandinsky's tailor shop in London a few years after the Blitz. The tailor fills Joe's head with unicorns and their power to grant wishes, prompting the boy to spend his pocket change on a baby goat with a single horn. The viewer may see the unicorns for what they are - a metaphor for the Holocaust, but Joe sees something else.

Film screening - 8:00 PM**July 30 - Toots**

USA, 2006 84 mins.

Director: Kristi Jacobson

From the 1940s into the 1960s, everyone who was anyone, went to Toots Shor's at 51 West 51st St. Athletes, journalists, movie stars and ordinary folk could be found tossing back drinks at the famous circular bar. Reigning over this conviviality, a brandy and soda in hand, was the saloon keeper himself, Toots Shor. Larger than life, with abundant charm and a talent for friendship, this icon of New York's golden years counted Joe DiMaggio, Frank Gifford, Jackie Gleason, and Frank Sinatra among his close friends. Director Kristi Jacobson's loving tribute to her grandfather charts Toots's rise from the streets of Philadelphia- the "Jew kid" in a largely Irish neighborhood to the top of the heap and beyond.

In Person: Filmmaker Kristi Jacobson

Film screening - 4:00 PM**August 6 - Bernie**

USA, 2005 62 mins.

Director: Jay Heyman

Bernie is a story about a man who grew up in the Hebrew Orphan Asylum in New York City, never knowing a parent and never having an identity of his own. After spending eleven years there as an "inmate" he returned to the institution as a professional social worker in an effort to bring about much needed change. Despite his challenging life Bernie created new relationships with a contagious enthusiasm that lasted almost ninety-seven years. Filmmaker Jay Heyman felt compelled to document the story of his beloved grandfather.

Film screening - 8:00 PM**August 6 - The Ritchie Boys**

Germany/Canada, 2004 93 mins.

Director: Christian Bauer

Meet "The Ritchie Boys," a special unit of soldiers from World War II who are finally receiving their much deserved recognition for their service to the Allies. All Jewish, the young men escaped the Nazis, and entered the USA, where they trained in intelligence techniques, at Camp Ritchie, Maryland. They were sent to the front to fight the Germans on their own soil using their own language and culture as weapons to break the enemy's morale. This documentary details the exploits of the Ritchie Boys, from D-Day and the Battle of the Bulge to the liberation of the Nazi concentration camps and the Nuremberg trials. Each of the surviving soldiers is a treasure trove of historical information as well as an accomplished storyteller - capturing perfectly the humor and joie de vivre of youth while never shrinking from the harsh realities of war.

In Person: Guy Stern (Ritchie Boy)

Film screening - 4:00 PM**August 13 - 51 Birch Street**

USA, 2005 88 mins.

Director: Doug Block

Do we every really know our parents? Filmmaker Doug Block had every reason to believe that his parents' 50 year marriage was a good one, but after his mother's death, he is shocked to find his father immediately marrying his secretary from forty years ago. Block's riveting documentary explores the mystery of his parents' marriage, revealing that both were more complex than he ever imagined.

Film screening - 8:00 PM**August 13 - Black Book**

Netherlands, 2006 Dutch/Eng. subtitles

145 mins.

Director: Paul Verhoeven

Filmmaker Paul Verhoeven returned to the Netherlands after more than twenty years of success in Hollywood to direct this epic-scale war drama based on a true story. Rachel Steinn (Carice van Houten) is a beautiful Jewish woman living in Holland during the early days of World War II. When Axis forces take control of Holland, Rachel's family is killed, while most of the other city's Jews are rounded up and sent to Nazi death camps. Rachel manages to avoid capture, and joins the local resistance movement. With her hair dyed blonde, Rachel easily passes for a gentile, and when the leader of the Dutch resistance movement learns his son has been captured by Axis forces, Rachel is asked to use her feminine charms to persuade a German commander to arrange for the boy's release. Rachel soon finds herself caught up in a dangerous double life as a spy while attempting to bring down the Nazi empire.

Film screening - 4:00 PM**August 20 - Obsession -****Radical Islam's War Against the West**

USA, 2006 77mins.

Director: Wayne Kopping

Obsession is a film about the threat of Radical Islam to Western civilization. Using unique footage from Arab television, it reveals an 'insider's view' of the hatred the Radicals are teaching, their incitement of global jihad, and their goal of world domination. The film also traces the parallels between the Nazi movement of World War II, the Radicals of today, and the Western world's response to both threats.

"Obsession is without exaggeration one of the most important films of our time"

Glenn Beck, CNN Headline New

Film screening - 8:00 PM**August 20 - Constantine's Sword**

USA, 2007 93 mins.

Director: Oren Jacoby

Oren Jacoby (Sister Rose's Passion) and James Carroll tell the story of James Carroll, a former Catholic priest on a journey to confront his past and uncover the roots of religiously inspired violence and war. His search also reveals a growing scandal involving religious infiltration of the U.S. military and the terrible consequences of religion's influence on America's foreign policy. The film brings the history of religious intolerance to life, tracing it as a source of the fanaticism that threatens the world today.

In person: Filmmaker Oren Jacoby

*All proceeds benefit the Knesset Israel Hebrew School which is supported by the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires.
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