

JACOB BURNS FILM CENTER

JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL

APRIL 23-29 • 2025



Janis Ian: Breaking Silence



Elie Wiesel: Soul on Fire

OPENING NIGHT

ELIE WIESEL: SOUL ON FIRE

APR. 23, 7:00* Q&A with Producer Annette Insdorf. With cocktail reception.

APR. 24, 4:00** Introduction from The Holocaust and Human Rights Education Center

Elie Wiesel's memoir *Night* brought his harrowing experiences in Auschwitz and Buchenwald to millions around the world. Oren Rudavsky's artful documentary portrait does the same, using Wiesel family archives, original interviews, and beautiful hand-painted animation. 2025. 87 m. Oren Rudavsky. Panorama Films. US. English/French/German with subtitles. NR.

The Apr. 24 screening is presented in partnership with The Holocaust and Human Rights Education Center.

*Tickets: \$25 (members), \$30 (nonmembers) ** Tickets: \$13 (members), \$18 (nonmembers)

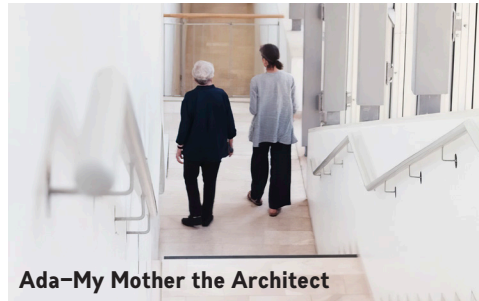
JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL

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Members Get Early Access During Pre-Sale

JBFC member pre-sale opens
Tuesday, March 4 at noon!

Tickets go on sale to the general
public Tuesday, March 11 at noon.



Ada-My Mother the Architect



The Heiresses



Midas Man



Come Closer

ADA-MY MOTHER THE ARCHITECT

APR. 24, 7:00*

Introduction from the Holocaust and Human Rights Education Center + Q&A with Director Yael Melamede

APR. 25, 1:00**

One of the greatest architects in Israeli history, Ada Karmi-Melamede's breathtaking modern buildings helped forge the nation's identity. Her daughter Yael's documentary is a refreshingly candid encounter between director and subject, and a revealing study of the creative process. 2025. 81 m. Yael Melamede. Film First. Israel/US. English/Hebrew with English subtitles. NR.

The Apr. 24 screening is presented in partnership with The Holocaust and Human Rights Education Center.

*Tickets: \$20 (members), \$25 (nonmembers)

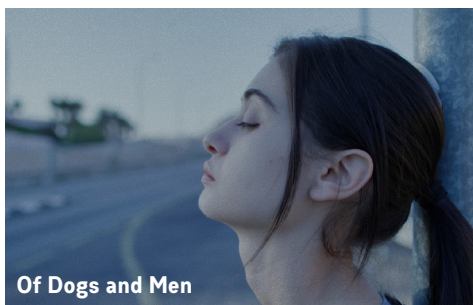
** Tickets: \$13 (members), \$18 (nonmembers)

THE HEIRESSES

APR. 25, 4:00

This recently restored gem is a multilayered melodrama set in Budapest as the Nazi threat rises. A young Isabelle Huppert stars as Irén, a Jewish shopgirl of modest means who is paid by a childless heiress to conceive a child with her husband. Fraught with class distinctions, moral dilemmas, and an emotional triangle, it is also an incisive study of prewar European decadence. 1980. 105 m. Márta Mészáros. Janus Films. France/Hungary. German/Hungarian/Latin with English subtitles. NR.

Tickets: \$13 (members), \$18 (nonmembers)



Of Dogs and Men

MIDAS MAN

APR. 25, 7:00 & APR. 26, 12:00

The life story of Brian Epstein, the entrepreneurial Liverpoollian who discovered the Beatles, managed them to meteoric global superstardom, and died at 32, has not had a proper feature-film treatment... until now. With an absorbing lead performance by Jacob Fortune-Lloyd, *Midas Man* shows how Epstein changed the world of music forever. 2024. 112 m. Joe Stephenson. Menemsha Films. UK. English. NR.

Tickets: \$13 (members), \$18 (nonmembers)

OF DOGS AND MEN

APR. 26, 2:35 & APR. 28, 4:00

Is it possible to address the massive horror of the October 7 attacks by Hamas in Israel, while also acknowledging the tragedy of the inevitable retribution just across the border in Gaza? With deep humanism and sensitivity, Dani Rosenberg tells the story of a 16-year-old survivor who returns to her kibbutz in search of her lost dog. A touching, necessary, and poetic work. 2024. 82 m. Dani Rosenberg. Menemsha Films. Italy/Israel. Hebrew with English subtitles. NR.

Tickets: \$13 (members), \$18 (nonmembers)

COME CLOSER

APR. 26, 4:45 & APR. 28, 7:00

Israel's official selection for the Best International Feature Academy Award, *Come Closer* is an electrifying debut by Tom Neshet, who made the film as a response to her brother's tragic death. Also making her unforgettable debut is lead actress Lia Elalouf, who is exhilarating and heartbreaking as she navigates a wild emotional journey. 2024. 107 m. Tom Neshet. Greenwich Entertainment. Italy/Israel. English/Hebrew with English subtitles. NR.

Tickets: \$13 (members), \$18 (nonmembers)



Janis Ian: Breaking Silence

JANIS IAN: BREAKING SILENCE

APR. 26, 7:20

Janis Ian: Breaking Silence chronicles the singer's epic life journey, including her Jewish childhood on a chicken farm, youthful struggles with notoriety following her breakout hit, ascent to fame, and the release of her disruptive album *Breaking Silence*, which she used to publicly come out. With access to Ian's vast archive, family, friends, collaborators, and music journalists, this in-depth musical film has the intimacy of a home movie. 2025. 114 m. Varda Bar-Kar. Greenwich Entertainment. US. English. NR.

Tickets: \$13 (members), \$18 (nonmembers)

PANEL DISCUSSION: JEWISH FILM IN 2024

APR. 27, 11:00

With Film Critics David Schwartz,
J. Hoberman, Jordan Hoffman,
Esther Zuckerman

Join us before for coffee and bagels

2024 was a surprisingly rich year for Jewish-themed films, with the widely acclaimed *A Real Pain* and *The Brutalist* exploring the aftermath of the Holocaust in wildly different ways, *A Complete Unknown* delving into the transformation of Robert Zimmerman, and *Between the Temples* offering an offbeat, odd-couple romance. 60 m.

Tickets: \$20 (members), \$25 (nonmembers)



Between the Temples



Duck Soup

Family
Friendly

DUCK SOUP

APR. 27, 12:40

Introduction & Book Signing with Film Critic
J. Hoberman

A scattershot satire starring Groucho Marx as the incompetent and lecherous autocrat Rufus T. Firefly, *Duck Soup* is comedy perfection, an assault on the folly of dictatorships, war, and government in general that has stood the test of time. 1933. 69 m. Leo McCarey. Universal Pictures. US. English. NR.

Tickets: \$15 (members), \$20 (nonmembers),
\$9 (children)



Brighton Beach



Avalon

Family
Friendly

AVALON (on 35mm)

APR. 27, 2:30

The unsentimental yet heartwarming saga of a Jewish family's immigration and assimilation in Baltimore from the 1910s-1950s. The Krichinsky family, led by patriarch Sam (Armin Muehler-Stahl), faces crises and changes large and small, all depicted with gentle humor and a feeling of nostalgia that is captured with rapturous beauty. 1990. 128 m. Barry Levinson. Sony Pictures Repertory. US. English/Yiddish. Rated PG.

Tickets: \$13 (members), \$18 (nonmembers),
\$9 (children)

BRIGHTON BEACH

APR. 27, 5:15

Q&A with Co-Director Susan Wittenberg

Recently rediscovered and restored by IndieCollect, *Brighton Beach* is a priceless portrait of the Brooklyn neighborhood that came to be known as "Little Odessa." Capturing the diversity and charm of an enclave that hasn't been homogenized by gentrification, the film is a precious time capsule that draws on archival footage as well as new photography to observe the quirks, charms, and occasional tensions of this unique slice of NYC. 1980. 60 m. Susan Wittenberg/Carol Stein. Independent. US. English. NR.

Tickets: \$20 (members), \$25 (nonmembers)

BREAKING HOME TIES

APR. 27, 7:30

Made in the 1920's to portray everyday Jewish life in the U.S. amidst a rising wave of antisemitism, *Breaking Home Ties* was long thought to be lost before it was lovingly restored in the 1980s by the National Center for Jewish Film. The film tells the story of David Bergmann, who fled pre-revolutionary Russia for New York thinking he killed his friend in a jealous rage. As David becomes a lawyer and woos his beloved Rose, his past comes back to haunt him. 1922. 60 m. Frank N. Seltzer/George K. Rowlands. National Center for Jewish Film. US. Silent with English subtitles. NR.

Tickets: \$13 (members), \$18 (nonmembers)



Breaking Home Ties

THE HEARTBREAK KID

APR. 29, 4:00

Charles Grodin has never been better than in this star-making performance as a sporting goods salesman and all-around schmuck who leaves his new wife during their honeymoon to pursue the shiksa of his dreams. A bracing comedy of discomfort, *The Heartbreak Kid* is the product of genius director Elaine May working from a screenplay by Neil Simon and Bruce Jay Friedman. 1972. 106 m. Elaine May. Bristol Myers Squibb. US. English. Rated PG.

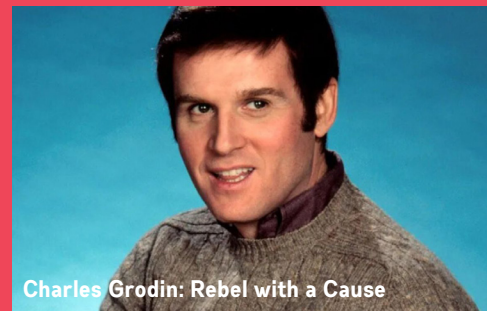
Tickets: \$13 (members), \$18 (nonmembers)

CLOSING NIGHT

CHARLES GRODIN: REBEL WITH A CAUSE

APR. 29, 7:00 • Q&A (virtual) with Director James L. Freedman

Charles Grodin's extraordinary life takes center stage in this rich portrait of a consummate performer who infused humor with heart. A master of dry wit and deadpan delivery, Grodin captivated audiences with his beloved performances, before using his platform as a talk show host to advocate for justice and pressing social issues in his later years. This vibrant tribute remembers a singular talent who left an indelible mark on both entertainment and humanity. 2025. 93 m. James L. Freedman. Independent. US. English. NR.



Charles Grodin: Rebel with a Cause

Tickets: \$20 (members), \$25 (nonmembers)



A NOTE FROM FESTIVAL CURATOR DAVID SCHWARTZ

The films in the 23rd edition of the JBFC's Jewish Film Festival offer close encounters with remarkable individuals. Across a wide range of fiction films and documentaries, personal stories lead to broader perspectives on history, culture, and society. The festival opens with Oren Rudavsky's vivid new documentary *Elie Wiesel: Soul on Fire*, which will inspire you to revisit Wiesel's great writing, but more importantly to follow the example of his profound humanism and compassion.

Documentary portraits *Janis Ian: Breaking Silence* and *Charles Grodin: Rebel with a Cause* reveal in both subjects an incredible resilience and ability to grow. *ADA—My Mother the Architect*, a candid and artful portrait, will bring well-deserved attention to a true pioneer. The engaging biopic *Midas Man* may be about the rise of the Beatles, but its focus is on the amazing and tragic story of their manager Brian Epstein. A mix of exciting films, both new and old, rounds out the lineup: from quietly powerful dramas and coming-of-age debuts to archival treasures and charming documentaries, as well as family-friendly screenings like the Marx Brothers' comic masterpiece *Duck Soup*. Finally, a Sunday morning panel will kibbitz about the surprising wealth of outstanding Jewish-themed films in 2024.

DAVID SCHWARTZ is a New York-based film curator and critic, the curator-at-large for Museum of the Moving Image (MoMI), and programs for the Barrymore Film Center, the Cinema Arts Centre, and the Emelin Theatre Film Club. He managed the Paris Theater in Manhattan, and has programmed for DocFilms, Mezzanine, Film Forum, Metrograph, The Quad, and more. Schwartz edited the book *David Cronenberg: Interviews*, and taught at SUNY Purchase and NYU. He writes about film for a variety of publications, and is on the The Film-makers' Cooperative Board of Directors.

AT A GLANCE

WEDNESDAY, APR. 23

Elie Wiesel: Soul on Fire
7:00 (Annette Insdorf,
Cocktail Reception)

THURSDAY, APR. 24

ADA—My Mother the Architect
7:00 (The Holocaust and Human Rights
Education Center, Yael Melamede)

Elie Wiesel: Soul on Fire
4:00 (The Holocaust and Human Rights
Education Center)

FRIDAY, APR. 25

ADA—My Mother the Architect 1:00

The Heiresses 4:00

Midas Man 7:00

SATURDAY, APR. 26

Midas Man 12:00

Of Dogs and Men 2:35

Come Closer 4:45

Janis Ian: Breaking Silence 7:20

SUNDAY, APR. 27

**Panel Discussion:
Jewish Film in 2024**
11:00 (David Schwartz, J. Hoberman,
Jordan Hoffman, Ester Zuckerman)

Duck Soup 12:40 (J. Hoberman)

Avalon (on 35mm) 2:30

Brighton Beach
5:15 (Susan Wittenberg)

Breaking Home Ties 7:30

MONDAY, APR. 28

Of Dogs and Men 4:00

Come Closer 7:00

TUESDAY, APR. 29

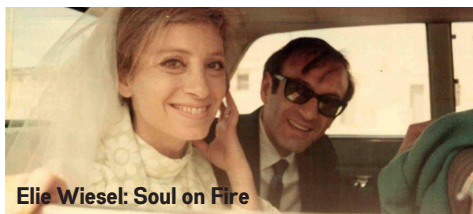
The Heartbreak Kid 4:00

**Charles Grodin:
Rebel with a Cause**
7:00 (James L. Freedman)

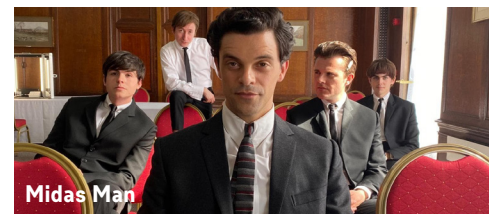
The 2025 Jewish Film Festival
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Roberta & Joseph Rosenblum



Elie Wiesel: Soul on Fire



Midas Man

JACOB BURNS FILM CENTER

364 Manville Road, Pleasantville, NY • Exit 30 Saw Mill Pkwy N/Exit 29 S

Info-Line: 914.747.5555 • Tickets are available online at burnsfilmcenter.org or at the box office, which opens 45 minutes before the first show of the day. • For accessible seating please call 914.747.5555, ext. 3 • Group sales must be purchased IN ADVANCE by calling 914.773.7663, ext. 6