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The London Israeli Film and Television Festival

Festival Programme

Edinburgh 6&7 May

London 10-17 May

Brighton 13&17 May



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SERET International 2018

Comes to London, Edinburgh & Brighton

May 6-17

Israel celebrates her 70th anniversary in 2018, and one of the country's greatest achievements is a film and television industry which has received international recognition and awards, and which fully deserves the exposure that SERET International gives it through our Israeli Film and TV Festivals around the world.

At SERET International, we have enjoyed great success in bringing the best of Israeli feature films, documentaries, shorts and TV to the UK over the past seven years, one year for every decade of Israel's existence, and we have expanded with Festivals in Amsterdam, Amstelveen and Maastricht in the Netherlands, Cologne, Munich and Berlin in Germany, Santiago and Valparaiso in Chile, and considerations are being given to extending the Festival to the USA this year with screenings planned for Boston.

We like to feel we play a vital role in offering audiences a glimpse of the world-leading, innovative, dynamic and passionate film and TV industry in Israel reflecting its social and cultural diversity.

We also bring Israel's top actors, directors and film makers to our Festivals for fascinating Q&A sessions to share their insight with our audiences.

Israeli films are the eyes and ears of a new generation of filmmakers. They reflect a melting pot of cultures, religions and social backgrounds, encouraging audiences to rethink their views. They will make you laugh, fill you with wonder, provoke strong reactions and, of course, entertain.

SERET London runs from 6-17th May 2018, and founders of the Israeli Film & TV Festival, Odelia Haroush, Anat Koren and Patty Hochmann, are bringing a more extensive Festival than ever before. Screenings have been lined up in Central, North, South West and North West London, Brighton, and for the first time Edinburgh.

Check out the full extent of the Festival's films and documentaries here and on our website; book your tickets online and come along to the Festival to see the best of Israeli Film and TV for yourself. You can catch some of the film makers at our lively Q&A sessions after some of the screenings.

**We look forward to seeing you.
Book tickets online!**

Odelia Haroush, Anat Koren and Patty Hochmann
Co-founders SERET International

SERET Supports Inclusion

The Ruderman Family Foundation believes that inclusion and understanding of all people is essential to a fair and flourishing community. Guided by our Jewish values, we advocate for and advance the inclusion of people with disabilities throughout our society; strengthen the relationship between Israel and the American Jewish Community; and model the practice of strategic philanthropy worldwide. We operate as a non-partisan strategic catalyst in cooperation with government, private sectors, civil society, and philanthropies.

The Foundation works to raise awareness and change the public's perceptions regarding people with disabilities and therefore is very active on social media, and has written several white papers and op-eds which were published in many prestigious media platforms. Among the rest, the Foundation has advocated for the diversity and inclusion of people with disabilities in the TV and movies industry in Hollywood, and had partnered in the production of 'Viki & I', an Israeli TV series which casted a deaf actor for the first time on Israeli prime-time television.





Left to right: Anat, Odelia and Patty.
Photo: Tammy Kazhdan, MART Photography

Odelia Haroush – Co-Founder & Managing Director

Israeli born, she shares her time between Amsterdam, Tel Aviv and London. Odelia recently became a member of The Israeli Film Academy. Odelia holds a Masters Degree in Communications and worked for many years in advertising, marketing and public relations agencies gaining extensive experience in marketing, production and promotion. Odelia is also a founding member of Dutchtown – The Israeli Digital magazine in Holland.

Anat Koren – Co-Founder & Operational Director

Israeli born, and based in London for many years, Anat is passionate about both Israeli and British lifestyle and culture, and how to show the best of each. As a prominent figure in the Israeli Community in the UK founding its representative body “AGIV” and is on the board of the Global Israeli Leadership. Anat founded the first magazine and website for the Israeli community in London. Working with a team of talented writers, she is the Editor in chief and Publisher of “Alondon”.

Patty Hochmann – Co-Founder & Artistic Director

Born in Santiago, Chile. Based in Israel, a member of the Israeli Film Academy, Patty's knowledge of Israeli film and TV is second-to-none. An invaluable member of the SERET team, Patty's passion for the industry ensures that each year, SERET is abundant with cutting edge and top quality Israeli productions from well-respected and loved film-makers, actors, and exciting new talent.

Our thanks to Dr. Nissim and Mrs Rina Levy



Whilst we have many wonderful Festival supporters, we would like to extend an extra special thank you to Nissim and Rina Levy.

Nissim and Rina have been the main SERET International sponsors for several years now, helping in so many areas, from the Opening Gala Screening in London to expanding our Festivals across the world.

Dr. Levy is a man of many talents! A doctor of chemistry, and a former NASA scientist, he has been a very successful trader and entrepreneur, and is the co-founder of MIUC, the outstanding private university in Marbella which attracts students from all over the world.

His philanthropic support began more than 20 years ago, while supporting the Yad Labeled Foundation, aimed at helping Israeli kids and teens in trouble.

Two years ago he was appointed President of “Special Olympics Israel” which provides year-round sports training and athletic competitions in a variety of Olympian sports for children and adults with intellectual disabilities.

Nissim and Rina sit on the Board of Governors of Tel Aviv University, receiving special recognition for their Periphery Scholarship Fund which allows accessibility to higher education for young Israelis from disadvantaged backgrounds and outlying communities.

Most recently Dr. Levy was appointed Chairman of the newly established Board of Governors of the Herzl Museum on Mount Herzl in Jerusalem.

We appreciate their love for Israeli film, and for helping us to bring our programmes to new audiences. And we very much appreciate their generosity.



Samuel Maoz
Director & Writer
Foxtrot



Eran Riklis
Director & Writer
Shelter



Photo: COCO

Ori Pfeffer
Actor
The Testament



Photo: Or Danon

Ran Danker
Actor
Doubtful



Photo: Shaxaf Haber

Magi Azarzar
Actress
Viki and Me



Limor Shmila
Director & Writer
Montana



Photo: Vered Adir

Eliran Elya
Director & Writer
Doubtful



Ofir Raul Graizer
Director & Writer
The Cakemaker



Nurit Shalom
Actress
Viki and Me



Doug Dalglish
Director
A Letter from London



Melvyn Lipitch
Scriptwriter
A Letter from London



Fiona Murphy
Director
Remember Baghdad



Dafna Doron
Sign Language Translator



Photo: Misha Bukhman

Ziv Naveh
CEO Geshet
Multicultural Film Fund

* Scottish Premiere * UK Premiere

Sunday 6/5	Monday 7/5	Thursday 10/5
20:00 * The Testament The Cameo, Edinburgh	18:30 * Ben Gurion, Epilogue The Cameo, Edinburgh	20:00 * Gala Opening Night The Testament Ham Yard Hotel

All films have English subtitles

To book tickets:
www.seret-international.org

Please note: Whilst we do our best to ensure the accuracy of the information in our brochure, we may be adding new screenings or changing some details of our schedule, so please check for the most up to date information on our website: www.seret-international.org.

Venues

Ciné Lumière

French Institute, 17 Queensberry Place, Kensington, London, SW7 2DT
Box office: 020 7871 3515

Crouch End Picturehouse

65 Tottenham Lane, Crouch End, London, N8 9BY
Box Office: 0871 902 5758

Duke's at Komedia, Brighton

44-47 Gardner Street, Brighton, BN1 1UN
Box Office: 0871 902 5728

Goethe-Institute

50 Princes Gate, Exhibition Road, London, SW7 2PH
(by invitation only)

Ham Yard Hotel

Ham Yard, Soho, London, W1D 7DT
(by invitation only)

JW3

341-351 Finchley Rd, London NW3 6ET.
Box Office: 020-7433 8988

Phoenix Cinema

52 High Road, East Finchley, London, N2 9PJ
Box office: 020 8444 6789

Picturehouse Central

Corner of Great Windmill Street and Shaftesbury Avenue, Piccadilly, London, W1D 7DH
Box Office: 0871 902 5755

The Cameo, Edinburgh

38 Home Street, Edinburgh EH3 9LZ
Box Office: 0871 902 5723

The Regent St. Cinema

307 Regent St, London, W1B 2HW
(by invitation only)

Friday 11/5	Saturday 12/5	Sunday 13/5		Monday 14/5	Tuesday 15/5	Wednesday 16/5	Thursday 17/5
14:30 Bar Bahar JW3	18:30 The Testament Picturehouse Central + Q&A with Ori Pfeffer	14:00 * Viki & Me JW3 + Q&A with Magi Azarzar & Nurit Shalom	19:30 * Doubtful Crouch End Picturehouse + Q&A with Eliran Elya & Ran Danker	14:00 A Letter from London JW3 + Q&A with Doug Dalgelish & Melvyn Lipitch	16:00 * My Hero Brother JW3	16:00 Foxtrot JW3	14:00 Ben Gurion, Epilogue JW3
	20:00 Foxtrot Phoenix Cinema + Q&A with Samuel Maoz	16:00 Ben Gurion, Epilogue JW3	20:00 * Shelter JW3 + Q&A with Eran Riklis	16:00 Montana JW3 + Q&A with Limor Shmila	18:00 * Longing JW3	18:30 The Oslo Diaries JW3	18:30 The Essential Link JW3
		18:00 * Foreign Land JW3	20:00 * An Israeli Love Story Duke's at Komedia, Brighton	18:00 * The Oslo Diaries Phoenix Cinema	20:00 The Cakemaker Phoenix Cinema + Q&A with Ofir Raul Graizer	20:00 Bar Bahar Crouch End Picturehouse	18:30 * Maktub Duke's at Komedia, Brighton
		18:30 Foxtrot Ciné Lumière + Q&A with Samuel Maoz	20:00 Montana Phoenix Cinema + Q&A with Limor Shmila	18:30 * Women of Freedom JW3	20:30 An Israeli Love Story JW3	20:45 An Israeli Love Story JW3	18:40 * The Cousin Picturehouse Central
				18:30 The Cakemaker Goethe Institute + Q&A with Ofir Raul Graizer			20:00 Maktub Phoenix Cinema
				20:00 Holy Air The Regents St. Cinema			20:30 Doubtful JW3
				20:20 Shelter JW3 + Q&A with Eran Riklis			20:30 Remember Baghdad Picturehouse Central + Q&A with Fiona Murphy



A Letter from London

מכתב מלונדון

Mon 14/5 14:00 JW3

Director: Doug Dalgleish

Producer & Writer: Melvyn Lipitch

Producer in Israel: Hanna Drori Kashi

Language: English

2017, 50 minutes, Documentary

Followed by a Q&A with Doug Dalgleish and Melvyn Lipitch

A Letter from London explores Britain's central role in the creation of Israel, exploring the reasons why Britain promised a "Homeland for Jews" at a time when the country was fighting the most disastrous war the world had ever witnessed, and how the multiple strands of this story came together at miraculously the right time for Britain and the Jews.

Covering the events just prior to the Balfour Declaration in 1917, to the proclamation of the new state in 1948 and all that happens in between, the documentary features new film, archive sources and interviews with experts in history and law, politicians, ex-military personnel from the Jewish resistance, and a former head of Mossad, interspersed with personal anecdotes of daily life during British rule from residents of Palestine who are still living.



An Israeli Love Story

סיפור אהבה ארץ ישראלי

Sun 13/5 20:00

Duke's at Komedia, Brighton

Tue 15/5 20:30 JW3

Wed 16/5 20:45 JW3

UK Premiere

Director: Dan Wolman

Screenplay: Pnina Gary, Dita Guery

Cast: Adi Bielski, Aviv Alush, Maya Wertheim, Issac Hizkiyah, Alex Anski, Amir Mugrabi, Sharon Friedman

Producer: Dan Wolman

Language: Hebrew with English subtitles
2017, 93 minutes, Drama

"With sensitivity and simplicity Wolman weaves the love story between the two young idealists into the pivotal moments that gave birth to the state. He pours honest romantic content into this cynicism free relationship from the country's age of innocence"

Nachum Mochiach, Habama

An Israeli Love Story is multi-award winning veteran director Dan Wolman's latest film. This is a passionate story of love and independence, Eli and Margalit are torn between their love for one another and where they see their own futures in the Jewish state. In the budding theatre world of Tel Aviv and the kibbutzim, Margalit finds her place in the spotlight. Eli, while planning to marry Margalit, is drawn deeper into the armed struggle for Israeli independence.

15/5 Private Screening
is sponsored by JAFI





Bar Bahar – In Between

לא פה, לא שם

Fri 11/5 14:30 JW3

Wed 16/5 20:00
Crouch End Picturehouse

Director & Writer: Maysaloun Hamoud

Cast: Shaden Kanboura, Mouna Hawa, Sana Jammalieh

Producers: Shlomi Elkabetz, Galit Cahlon, Sandrine Brauer

Languages: Arabic and Hebrew with English subtitles

2017, 102 minutes, Drama

Festivals and Awards:

- Cannes Film Festival - Young Talents Award, Women in Motion

16/5 Screening is sponsored by the New Israel Fund

הקרן החדשה לישראל
الصندوق الجديد لإسرائيل
New Israel Fund
Progress. Together.

"After watching Maysaloun Hamoud's sparkling, taboo-breaking first feature In Between (Bar Bahar), audiences will have to seriously update their ideas about the lifestyle of Palestinian women in Israel"

Deborah Young The Hollywood Reporter

Multi-award-winning Bar Bahar shows us three Israeli-Palestinian women who are rocked by a shocking series of events that will push their beliefs to the limit and change their lives forever whilst sealing the bond of friendship.

An inspired, pacey debut from Maysaloun Hamoud, Bar Bahar follows the lives of three modern, strong, independent minded women sharing an apartment in Tel Aviv. Away from the constraints of their families and enforced tradition, they find themselves 'in between' the free and unfettered lives they're aspiring to lead and the restrictions still imposed on them by a blinkered society.



Ben-Gurion, Epilogue

בן-גוריון, אפילוג

Mon 7/5 18:30
The Cameo, Edinburgh

Sun 13/5 16:00 JW3

Thurs 17/5 14:00 JW3

Scottish Premiere

Director: Yariv Mozer

Producers: Yael Perlov, Yariv Mozer, Guigon Juliette, Patrick Winocour

Language: Hebrew and English with English subtitles

2016, 70 minutes, Documentary

Festivals and Awards:

- Israeli Film Academy - Best Documentary

"Ben-Gurion, Epilogue offers a rare intimate look at what went on inside Ben-Gurion's heart and mind"

Owen Gleiberman Variety

Based on archive material, the film reveals the final years of Israel's founder, David Ben-Gurion, who has been described as the living embodiment of the romantic ideal of Israel. Excluded from leadership, he looks back on the Zionist enterprise in his lifetime. A six-hour interview with David Ben-Gurion, one of modern history's greatest leaders emerges from the obscurity of an archive where it has lain unrecognized for decades. It is 1968, and Ben-Gurion is 82 years old. He lives in the seclusion of his home in the desert, remote from all political discourse. His introspective soul-searching is the focus of this film, and his reflections provide a surprising vision for today's crucial decisions and for the future of Israel.



Doubtful

מוטלים בספק

Sun 13/5 19:30
Crouch End Picturehouse

Thurs 17/5 20:30 JW3

UK Premiere

Director & Writer: Eliran Elya

Cast: Ran Danker, Adar Hazazi Gersch, Hilla Surjon, Bat-El Museri, Liron Ben-Shlush

Producer: Oren Rogovin

Language: Hebrew with English subtitles
2017, 88 minutes, Drama

Followed by a Q&A with Eliran Elya and Ran Danker (13/5)

Festivals and Awards:

- Jerusalem Film Festival – Best First Film, and Best Cinematography

17/5 Private Screening is sponsored by ORT



"Eliran Elya's debut feature is an extraordinary emotional journey... this a small-scale story about a teacher and his student, which may tread familiar film ground, but succeeds in bypassing clichés with its maturity and great sense of humanity"

Orr Sigoli, Cineuropa

Autobiographical, and with a cast of young people who themselves have behavioural issues making their screen debut, Doubtful is a story about a detached man who believes he can 'save' young offenders through art, and the teenagers who don't want to be saved. Assi, a screenwriter and poet, he is restless, and full of doubt and disturbing thoughts. A tragic accident leads to a sentence of community service working with young offenders under house arrest. Their extreme personalities, their riotous energy, and their charm awakens curiosity and attraction.



Foreign Land

ארץ זרה

Sun 13/5 18:00 JW3

UK Premiere

Director: Shlomi Eldar

Producers: Ehud Bleiberg, Yoav Ze'evi

Language: Arabic, Hebrew
with English subtitles

2017, 75 minutes, Documentary

Festivals and Awards:

- Haifa Film Festival – Winner Best Documentary

The Israeli government has tried to stop national TV screenings of this, in their words, "slandorous" documentary. Created by Shlomi Eldar, an Israeli filmmaker and journalist and a winner of the Sokolov Prize.

An Arab actor and a Jewish journalist search for a place where they can belong.

Ghassan Abbas was once a famous TV star in Israel. Director Shlomi Eldar was once an Arab Affairs correspondent for Israel's TV news. Both men have discovered that their audiences are getting smaller by the day. Abbas is not getting any new roles, and Eldar's reports are getting pushed to the sidelines of the daily news reports. Israeli society no longer wants to hear about the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. Now facing a professional crisis, these two friends are searching for a way to escape, while taking account of how changes in Israel affect them both personally and on a national level.



Foxtrot
פוקסטרוט

Sat 12/5 20:00 Phoenix Cinema

Sun 13/5 18:30 Ciné Lumière

Wed 16/5 16:00 JW3

Director & Writer: Samuel Maoz

Cast: Lior Ashkenazi, Sarah Adler, Yonaton Shiray, Shira Haas

Producers: Cedmoir Kolar, Mark Baschet, Eitan Mansuri

Language: Hebrew with English subtitles
2017, 113 minutes, Drama

Followed by a Q&A with Samuel Maoz
(12/5 and 13/5)

Screenings are sponsored
by the New Israel Fund

הקרן החדשה לישראל
الصندوق الجديد لإسرائيل
New Israel Fund
Progress. Together.

*"No matter what you're expecting,
"Foxtrot" is not the film you expect it to
be. It's better"*

Kenneth Turan, LA Times

Making a clean sweep of the Ophir Awards in 2017, and winning accolades around the world including Best Film and the Silver Lion Grand Jury Prize at the Venice Film Festival, Foxtrot has been described as the most significant Israeli film made last year, with its examination of the 'absurdities' of military conscription.

A troubled family struggle to face the facts when something goes terribly wrong at their son's desolate military post. The horror of receiving the worst news possible is heightened when they discover that there is something untoward about the circumstances.



Holy Air
אוויר קדוש

Mon 14/5 20:00
The Regent Street Cinema

Director & Writer: Shady Srour

Cast: Shady Srour, Laetitia Eido, Shmulik Caleron, Tarik Copti, Dalia Okal, Byan Anteer

Producers: Ilan Mokovitch, Shady Srour

Language: Arabic and Hebrew with English subtitles

2017, 81 minutes, Comedy

Festivals and Awards:

- Jerusalem Jerusalem Film Festival - winner Israeli First Film

This private screening is sponsored by
Ilana & Elias Fattal

*"...a winningly satiric comedy that's as
tenderhearted as it is sly"*

Sheri Linden, Hollywood Reporter

When Adam hears that his wife Lamia is pregnant and his father falls very ill, he evaluates his life and realizes that he hasn't achieved much. Despite all his failed business ideas, he makes one last attempt to try to make it big. And what's better to sell than the very air that the Virgin Mary breathed during her annunciation in the Holy Land? And to time it during a planned Papal visit with all the religious tourists flocking to the city? But, as one priest tells Adam during confession, he needs allies from the three cultures active in Nazareth; the Jewish politicians, the Muslim mafia, and the Catholic Church officials. In a politically unstable world where religion is just merchandise, can Holy Air become Adam's salvation?



Longing

געגונט

Tue 15/5 18:00 JW3

UK Premiere

Director & Writer: Savi Gabizon

Cast: Ella Armony, Shai Avivi, Shmil Ben Ari

Producers: Leon Edery, Moshe Edery, Savi Gabizon, Tami Leon, Chilik Michaeli, Avraham Pirchi

Language: Hebrew with English subtitles
2017, 100 minutes, Comedy Drama

Festivals and Awards:

- Israeli Film Academy – Best Screenplay
- Jerusalem Film Festival – Best Screenplay, Audience Award

“Israeli director Savi Gabizon returns after a 14-year hiatus with his new film, an acute and fascinating reflection on paternity and how to smile in the face of death. Gabizon gifts us this acute, bittersweet and engaging reflection on his role as a parent, the fear of becoming one, selfishness, the ability to open up to the world and to rediscover it, and learning to look beyond the self”

Vittoria Scarpa Cineuropa

Ariel, a well-off childless man, gets a call from his ex-girlfriend. She needs to tell him a couple of very surprising things: first, when they broke up twenty years ago, she was pregnant and went on to have a lovely boy. The second thing will change his life forever. This is a journey that explores the hidden aspects of parenthood beyond giving and responsibility. Most of all, this is a very sad comedy.



Maktub

מכתוב

Thurs 17/5 18:30
Duke's at Komedia, Brighton

Thurs 17/5 20:00 Phoenix Cinema

UK Premiere

Director: Oded Raz

Cast: Guy Amir, Hanan Savyon

Producers: Roni Abramowsky, Adar Shafran

Language: Hebrew with English subtitles
2017, 106 minutes, Comedy

“Successful Israeli TV duo Guy Amir and Hanan Savyon jump to the big screen with sparkling results in “Maktub,” a very funny and warm-hearted comedy about two goodfellas who are jolted out of bad-guy work and into that of guardian angels”

Dennis Harvey Variety

Made by the creators of the hit TV series ASFOR, Maktub is the latest comedy offering from Hanan Savyon and Guy Amir. Steve and Chuma are a pair of criminals in the Kaslasi organized crime syndicate in Jerusalem. Whilst out collecting their ‘protection’ money, they hear a massive explosion. Shaken out of their criminal ways, the two former shylocks become flesh and blood angels, stealing notes from the Western Wall and fulfilling people’s prayers in their own unique way. Along the way they find themselves dealing with their own secrets, prayers and wishes.



Montana

מונטנה

Sun 13/5 20:00 Phoenix Cinema

Mon 14/5 16:00 JW3

Director & Writer: Limor Shmila

Cast: Noa Biron, Avi Malka, Netta Shpigelman, Keren Tzur, Hava Ortman

Producers: Chilik Michaeli, Avraham Pirchi, Tami Leon, Moshe Edery, Leon Edery

Language: Hebrew and French with English subtitles

2017, 79 minutes, Drama

Followed by a Q&A with Limor Shmila (13/5 and 14/5)

📌 Festivals and Awards:

- Haifa Film Festival – The Michael Shvily Award for Best Actress in an Israeli Feature Film, Noa Biron

"Emotionally calibrated but never heavy handed, Montana underscores the belief that, when one is faced with a moral choice, love can't — and shouldn't — be used as an excuse for silence"

Jane Schoettle TIFF

A young woman returns to her hometown, Acre, following the death of her grandfather, and begins an affair with a married female teacher. As Effi's passion for Keren grows, so does her unease about the close relationship between her uncle and the young daughter of her lover.

Effi's arrival sparks more confrontation than celebration as her family, her memories and especially her reasons for running away all those years ago conspire to put her back in an old, unwelcoming place.

Powerful and intimate, she must confront secrets of her past.



My Hero Brother

אח שלי גיבור

Tue 15/5 16:00 JW3

UK Premiere

Director & Producer: Yonatan Nir

Producers: Enosh Cassel, Itamar Peleg

Language: Hebrew with English subtitles
2016, 78 minutes, Documentary

📌 Festivals and Awards:

- Santa Barbara International Film Festival – Audience Choice Award
- Santa Barbara International Film Festival – Jury Award Best Documentary Film
- Philadelphia Jewish Film Festival – Best Documentary Feature
- Bosifest – Special Mention Award

"In the times of a global familial meltdown, My Hero Brother presents a rare insight into bonding between siblings against all odds. Deeply moving and genuinely inspiring"

F. Khan, BBC WORLD

A group of remarkable young people with Down's syndrome embark on a demanding trek through the Indian Himalayas, with their brothers and sisters.

Unresolved conflicts and the complexities of growing up with a Down's syndrome child in the family surface, while a heart-warming and special closeness develops among the siblings as they deal with formidable physical and emotional challenges.

The difficult trials and poignant relationships, set against the richly colourful backdrop of India, open new horizons and greatly deepen our understanding of special needs people and their families.



Remember Baghdad

זכרו את בגדד

Thurs 17/5 20:30
Picturehouse Central

Director: Fiona Murphy
Producers: Ed Dallal, Mark Anderson, Andre Singer, George Carey
Language: English
2016, 72 minutes, Documentary
Followed by a Q&A with Fiona Murphy

"There is a potency and pungency to this brief, absorbing documentary about a part of Middle East history that is often passed over: the Jews of Iraq"

Peter Bradshaw The Guardian

Five Jewish families look back on a scarcely imaginable time in Baghdad – Iraq was booming, it was pleasure-seeking, and there was inter-communal trust. Iraq was once one of the most diverse places on earth, more tolerant of its minorities than any European nation.

1917 a third of the citizens of Baghdad were Jewish but after the creation of Israel they were no longer safe and a mass exodus takes place.

Today, after decades of war and instability, Iraq is a very different place. In spite of the danger, North Londoner Edwin Shuker decides to return to the country he loved. The documentary follows him back to Baghdad.



Shelter

חסות

Sun 13/5 20:00 JW3

Mon 14/5 20:20 JW3

UK Premiere

Director & Writer: Eran Riklis
Cast: Neta Riskin, Golshifteh Farahani, Yehuda Almagor
Producers: Bettina Brokemper, Antoine de Clermont-Tonnerre, Michael Eckelt, Eran Riklis
Language: Hebrew, German and Arabic with English subtitles
2017, 93 minutes, Drama
Followed by a Q&A with Eran Riklis (13/5 and 14/5)

14/5 Private Screening
is sponsored by El Al



EL VAL
IT'S NOT JUST AN AIRLINE, IT'S ISRAEL

Two women are trapped in a safehouse where nothing is safe and no one can be trusted. Shelter is a subtle thriller set in Germany involving Mona, a Lebanese woman and Naomi, an Israeli Mossad agent sent to protect their informant while recovering from plastic surgery for her new identity. Mona and Naomi - together for two weeks in a quiet apartment in Hamburg. A safe house. A shelter. No one saw what was coming, no one knew that this supposedly quiet fortnight would turn into an abyss and that shelter would need to be found elsewhere. The intimacy of the relationship that develops between the two women is exposed to the threat of terror that is engulfing the world today. In this game of deception, beliefs are questioned and choices are made that are not their own. And yet their fate takes a surprising turn in this suspense-laden, elegant neo-noir.



The Cakemaker

האופה מברלין

Mon 14/5 18:30 Goethe-Institute

Tue 15/5 20:00 Phoenix Cinema

Director & Writer: Ofir Raul Graizer

Cast: Sarah Adler, Zohar Strauss, Tim Kalkhof

Producers: Jiries Copti, Ofir Raul Graizer, Mathias Schwerbrock

Language: Hebrew and German with English subtitles

2017, 104 minutes, Drama

Followed by a Q&A with Ofir Raul Graizer (14/5 and 15/5)

14/5 Private screening is sponsored by The German Embassy, and the Embassy of Israel.



15/5 Screening is sponsored by Swiftnet



"Pastry dough is far from the only thing that requires — and duly receives — delicate handling in The Cakemaker a tender, tactile and just-sweet-enough story of hidden love, challenged faith and unwittingly shared grief"

Guy Lodge, Variety

This Israeli box office hit is the humanely spun, at times heartrending story of Thomas, a young German baker, who is grieving the loss of his lover Oren in a car crash. Oren is an Israeli married man, who meets Thomas and falls in love on one of his trips to Berlin.

Thomas travels to Jerusalem seeking answers regarding his death. Under a false identity, Thomas infiltrates the life his lover's newly-widowed wife. Thomas starts to work for her and brings new life to her café with his fabulous cakes. Finding himself involved far beyond his expectations he will stretch his lie to a point of no return.



The Cousin

הבן דוד

Thurs 17/5 18:40
Picturehouse Central

UK Premiere

Director, Writer and Producer: Tzahi Grad

Producer: Ehud Bleiberg

Cast: Tzahi Grad, Ala Dakka, Osnat Fishman

Language: Hebrew and Arabic with English subtitles

2017, 93 minutes, Drama

Festivals and Awards:

- Haifa Film Festival – Artistic Achievement, Best Actor Tzahi Grad
- Venice Film Festival

"The Cousin" is both a darkly comical exploration of Arab-Israeli relations and a cautionary allegory about a universal phenomenon – the fear of 'the other' which can so easily turn into racism.

Starring himself, and his own wife and children, and filmed in his home, The Cousin, written, directed and produced by Tzahi Grad, is a wry comedy about testing the very best of motivations.

A local media personality brings a Palestinian labourer home to patch up the crumbling studio in his garden, but Fahed isn't the man Naftali thought he was hiring. Later that day, rumours begin to circulate: a young woman who lives near the builders' yard has been assaulted and fingers immediately point to Fahed, the outsider in their midst.



The Essential Link

The Story of Wilfred Israel

האיֵש הנעלם

Thurs 17/5 18:30 JW3

Director: Yonatan Nir

Producer: Noam Shalev

Language: Hebrew with English subtitles
2016, 145 minutes, Documentary

Festivals and Awards:

- Philadelphia Jewish Film Festival – Audience Award for Best Documentary Feature

“Through your film, generations to come will be able to get to know our nation’s history and better understand where its firm roots derive from”

Shimon Peres

The film tells the remarkable story of Wilfrid Israel – a wealthy Jewish businessman and owner of Berlin’s largest department store in the 1930’s, who was involved in the saving of tens of thousands of Jews, and played a key role in the Kinder transport operation. Israel was a member of one of Germany’s most prominent Jewish families and acquainted with some of the most influential figures of the 20th century, yet little is known about his personal life and heroic endeavours. Why did his story remain untold? What was there to hide?

The mysterious story becomes personal as filmmaker Yonatan Nir takes us on an adventure in search of this extraordinary man.



The Oslo Diaries

יומני אוסלו

Mon 14/5 18:00 Phoenix Cinema

Wed 16/5 18:30 JW3

UK Premiere

Directors: Mor Loushy, Daniel Sivan

Producers: Hilla Medalia and Ina Fichman

Language: Hebrew and English with English subtitles

2017, 94 minutes, Documentary

Screenings are sponsored by the New Israel Fund

הקרן החדשה לישראל
الصندوق الجديد لإسرائيل
New Israel Fund
Progress. Together.

“This spotlight on an unlikely early step forward is an optimistic and detailed one, presented as a meeting of two sides in a middle that for so long couldn’t have existed ... a reminder that there is a way to see the other side”

Abe Fried-Tanzer Jewcy

In *The Oslo Diaries* bring us a riveting account of 1100 days of secret talks, as told by the people who were there at the table. Their emotional diary entries recount the political intrigue, fiery rhetoric, unlikely friendships and overwhelming desire for peace that were the heart of the negotiations.

In 1992, with Israeli-Palestinian relations at an all-time low and any communication punishable with jail, a small group of Israelis and Palestinians gathered in Oslo – secretly and illegally. The meetings came to be known as the ‘Oslo Accords’ and they changed the Middle East forever.



The Testament

העדות

Sun 6/5 20:00
The Cameo, Edinburgh

Tue 10/5 20:00 Ham Yard Hotel
(By invitation only)

Sat 12/5 18:30
Picturehouse Central

UK Premiere
Scottish Premiere

Director: Amichai Greenberg
Cast: Ori Pfeffer, Rivka Gur, Hagit Dasberg Shamul, Ori Yaniv, Orna Rothberg
Producers: Yoav Roeh, Aurit Zamir

Language: Hebrew with English subtitles
2017, 93 minutes, Drama

Followed by a Q&A with Ori Pfeffer (12/5)

12/5 Screening is sponsored by
the Austrian Embassy

austrian cultural forum^{london}

-This perfect anti-hero is the core of The Testament; he is someone who sees everything around him collapsing, but he follows his path silently in order to remain faithful to his professional and religious integrity-

Vassilis Economou, Cineuropa

While investigating classified testimonies of Holocaust survivors, Yoel discovers, to his shock and surprise, a testimony given by his mother, a testimony he didn't know existed. In her testimony she confesses to a substantial secret from her past.

Yoel, is trapped between walls of silence - on one side, denial of the Holocaust on the part of the villagers, and on the other, his mother's silence regarding her past. As a historian with an unshakeable commitment to the truth, he decides to continue his investigations even at the cost of ruining his personal and professional life.



Viki and Me

ויקי ואני

Sun 13/5 14:00 JW3

UK Premiere

Creator: Tal Miller

Director: Rani Sa'ar

Cast: Magi Azarzar, Itay Zolon, Shai Avivi, Nurit Shalom

Language: Hebrew with English subtitles
2017, Two episodes, 60 mins in total, TV series

Followed by a Q&A with actresses
Magi Azarzar and Nurit Shalom

Screening is sponsored by
The Ruderman Foundation



The Ruderman Family Foundation believes that inclusion and understanding of all people is essential to a fair and flourishing community. Guided by Jewish values, Ruderman foundation advocate for and advance the inclusion of people with disabilities throughout our society; and model the practice of strategic philanthropy worldwide.

Following the success of the first series in this new Israeli TV comedy, the bets are on that this will be the next Israeli series to hit TV screens overseas.

Dedi is a successful speech writer, who earns his living writing eulogies for the mayor who has decided that he should mourn every person who passes away in his city. Dedi's skills help Viki, an impulsive Knesset member, on the path to her appointment as the youngest Minister of Education to ever serve in Israel (and the first woman to hold the position while, sort of, hating children). This is the beginning of Viki and Dedi's joint journey, in which they will fix and change each other through the speeches that he writes for her.



Mon 14/5 18:30 JW3

UK Premiere

Director, Writer & Producer:

Abeer Zeibak Haddad

Language: Arabic and Hebrew
with English subtitles

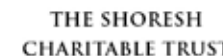
2016, 70 mins, Documentary

"My late sister wasn't murdered because she brought shame on her family, what killed her was my weakness, my despair, my anger and stupidity" says one of the contributors to this highly controversial documentary. "Women of Freedom" follows the stories of women who were murdered in the name of 'honour killings', women whose lives are under threat, women who survived murder attempts, even that of a killer expressing remorse. The documentary tries to unravel the social and political circumstances that have led to this custom.

The director Abeer Zeibak Haddad, who witnessed such a tragedy in her own life, embarked on a journey through Israel and Palestine, collecting stories of the victims, the survivors and the killers themselves.



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www.seret-international.org

If you would like to find out more about the scheme, please contact Odelia Haroush at odelia@seret-international.org



SERET International Future Festivals

Want even more from SERET International?
Well, we're delighted to announce the dates
for SERET International in **Berlin**, from October 4th – 14th
SERET International in **Amsterdam**, from November 1st – 7th
and SERET International in **Santiago, Chile** Early December 2018

See you there!

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www.seret-international.org