



The Jewish Community Center  
of Metropolitan Detroit

19TH ANNUAL

# Lenore Marwil Detroit Jewish Film Festival

MAY 7-18, 2017



248.661.1900 • [jccdet.org/filmfest](http://jccdet.org/filmfest)

# Lenore Marwil Detroit Jewish Film Festival

## LOCATIONS

Unless otherwise noted, films will be shown at

The Berman Center for the Performing Arts - 6600 W. Maple Road, West Bloomfield

Other locations include

The Maple Theater - 4135 W. Maple Road, Bloomfield Township

MOCAD - 4454 Woodward Avenue, Detroit

Congregation Shaarey Zedek - 27375 Bell Road, Southfield

### Sunday, May 7

2 p.m. **Fanny's Journey**  
5 p.m. **A Heartbeat Away & Joe's Violin**  
8 p.m. **Opening Night with Leonard Maltin, followed by The Last Laugh**

### Monday, May 8

2 p.m. **Natasha**  
5 p.m. **Denial (Shaarey Zedek)**

### Tuesday, May 9

2 p.m. **Germans and Jews**  
5 p.m. **Atlit**  
8 p.m. **Wedding Doll**

### Wednesday, May 10

2 p.m. **Vita Activa: The Spirit of Hannah Arendt**  
5 p.m. **Our Father**  
**PATRON NIGHT**  
8 p.m. **On The Map**

### Thursday, May 11

11 a.m. **On The Map (The Maple Theater)**  
2 p.m. **Persona Non Grata**  
5 p.m. **Ben-Gurion, Epilogue**  
8 p.m. **The Last Band in Lebanon**

### Friday, May 12

Noon **Moon in the 12th House**  
2 p.m. **Amor**

### Sunday, May 14

2 p.m. **The Pickle Recipe**  
8 p.m. **The Women's Balcony**

### Monday, May 15

2 p.m. **Summer Solstice**  
5 p.m. **Operation Wedding**  
8 p.m. **A Grain of Truth**

### Tuesday, May 16

2 p.m. **The Pracht Inn**  
5 p.m. **How To Win Enemies**  
8 p.m. **Norman Lear: Just Another Version of You**  
8 p.m. **SEED: The Untold Story (MOCAD)**

### Wednesday, May 17

2 p.m. **SEED: The Untold Story**  
5 p.m. **A Quiet Heart**  
8 p.m. **Hummus! The Movie**

### Thursday, May 18

5 p.m. **Life, Animated**  
8 p.m. **Harmonia**

## Karen Schneider Jewish Film Festival of Flint

All films will be shown at the Flint Institute of Art, 1120 E. Kearsley Street.

For tickets or information, contact the Flint Jewish Federation:

810.767.5922 or [fjf@flintfed.org](mailto:fjf@flintfed.org).

### Thursday, April 20

7 p.m. **Fanny's Journey**

### Sunday, April 30

7 p.m. **On The Map**

### Monday, May 1

7 p.m. **Harmonia**

### Tuesday, May 2

7 p.m. **Life, Animated & Joe's Violin**

### Wednesday, May 3

7 p.m. **The Women's Balcony**

### Thursday, May 4

7 p.m. **The Last Band in Lebanon**

## MISSION STATEMENT

The JCC's Lenore Marwil Detroit Jewish Film Festival offers a diverse cinema experience in its annual festival and throughout the year. It also provides a forum for discussion about films from around the world that illuminate Jewish issues and principles. Our goal is to enhance a sense of community and inclusion for a broad range of audience members.

## TICKETS

IN PERSON: **Monday-Friday 10 a.m.-4 p.m.**  
ONLINE: [theberman.org](http://theberman.org) • BY PHONE: 248.661.1900

### Individual film ticket

\$13 (\$11 for JCC members)

### Movie Lover's Discount Ticket Bundle – Six films

\$60 (\$78 value); \$50 for JCC members (\$66 value)

### OPENING NIGHT: Leonard Maltin and The Last Laugh

\$35 (\$30 for JCC members)

## COME FOR DINNER AND A MOVIE!

Chef Cari's Street Eats kosher food truck will be outside The Berman entrance between the 5 and 8 p.m. showings during Film Festival.

Menu choices may include shwarma and falafel or English-style fish and chips, with gluten-free and vegetarian options.

Weather permitting, outside seating will be available, or enjoy dining at tables in the JCC lobby.



The 2017 Lenore Marwil Detroit Jewish Film Festival is extremely grateful to our corporate sponsors, without whom the festival would not be possible:



## What is a Film Festival?

Remember record albums? Remember how it felt to put a new album on the turntable and listen to the first song, and then another and another? Each song stands alone, but an album creates a larger artistic statement. Similarly, each film in our festival is its own song, and the whole festival is the complete narrative of the album.

For this festival, we have curated a collection of films that speak to this moment in history and today's mood.

As time marches on, our view of history changes, and as we examine events from an evolving perspective, we continue to learn from them. In *Ben-Gurion, Epilogue*, one of Israel's founding fathers looks back on his life and career in ways that sound prophetic now.

*A Grain of Truth*, a murder mystery/thriller, examines the mythical roots of the anti-Semitism that still runs as an undercurrent in our lives.

The religious landscape in Israel, explored in *A Quiet Heart* and *The Women's Balcony*, provides a window into our modern Jewish state and a mirror in which we can examine our own place on the religious spectrum.

What do we think is funny? The question is asked overtly in *The Last Laugh*. And it may be answered in comedies like *The Last Band in Lebanon* or *How to Win Enemies*.

We explore the creativity of Detroit with WDET's "Hummus: Heartland" exhibit, which will be in the lobby of The Berman and *The Pickle Recipe*, which was created in Detroit.

Tikkun olam – our Jewish values - helping those with special needs, finding commonality across faith lines, protecting the planet, honoring our heroes and our ancestors, and always, always, being a people who challenge ourselves - as my hero Don Quixote says in *Man of La Mancha* - "to see the world, not as it is, but as it could be."

Whether you tune in for one film, or immerse yourself in the whole film festival album, I hope you are enchanted, enlightened and entertained by the collection of spectacular, award-winning films being screened at this year's Lenore Marwil Detroit Jewish Film Festival.

See you at the movies!

Beth Robinson

Director

Lenore Marwil Detroit Jewish Film Festival

PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR

## Patron Night

Wednesday, May 10, 2017

Strolling Dinner Reception at 6:30 p.m.

Film at 8 p.m.

## ON THE MAP

Followed by a talk-back with Israeli Academy Award-winning filmmaker Dani Menkin

Patron event sponsored by  
Jerold & Ellen Minkin Family Foundation



**DANI MENKIN** is an award-winning film-maker, director, screenwriter and producer whose latest project is *On The Map*, an inspiring documentary about an underdog Tel Aviv team that toppled the four-time defending champions to win the European Cup.

A native of Israel, Menkin received an

Ophir (Israeli Academy) Award for *39 Pounds of Love* (short listed for the Oscars), the journey of a man with spinal muscular atrophy. He also was director of *Dolphin Boy*, a documentary focusing on a boy's therapy with dolphins; *Je T'aime, I Love You Terminal*, a surprising romance; *Is That You?* the story of a 60-year-old man in search of the love of his youth; and he was co-director of the Israeli cult film *Wisdom of the Pretzel*.

Become a patron! Contact Linda Levy at  
llevy@jccdet.org or 248.432.5652.

Sunday, May 7

Sunday, May 7 (cont.)

Monday, May 8

2 p.m.

### Fanny's Journey



94 minutes, France, 2016, French with subtitles

A brave, resourceful girl leads a band of orphans through Nazi-occupied France in this suspenseful and poignant coming-of-age drama. Following the arrest of their father in Paris, sisters Fanny, Erika and Georgette are sent to a boarding school, and then into the care of the tough-but-tender Madame Forman. As danger advances yet again, the fate of the children and their new friends is entrusted to 13-year-old Fanny, who fearlessly treks through the countryside in an effort to reach the Swiss border.

An old-fashioned, family entertainment film that brings history alive, *Fanny's Journey* is based on an autobiographical novel by Fanny Ben-Ami.

Winner - Michel Award, Director Lola Doillon, Hamburg Film Festival, 2016

Co-sponsored by Congregation T'chayah, Hidden Children & Child Survivors of Michigan

5 p.m.

### A Heartbeat Away shown with Joe's Violin



54 minutes, Israel, 2015, English, Hebrew with subtitles

Every day in Tanzania, five children die from heart conditions. Israeli pediatric cardiologist Dr. Akiva Tamir and his team examine hundreds of children, only a handful of whom can receive lifesaving treatment.

When 6-year-old Julius arrives at the clinic in critical condition, Dr. Tamir must choose whether or not to operate on a child with little chance of surviving.

In this riveting drama, swinging on the pendulum between science and faith, hope and despair, life and death, Dr. Tamir and his team must deal with the question of who to treat and who will be left to die.

5 p.m. (continued)

### Joe's Violin



24 minutes, USA, 2016, English

In this Oscar-nominated short documentary, a musical instrument forges an improbable friendship between 91-year-old Holocaust survivor Joe Feingold and 12-year-old Bronx school girl, Brianna Perez.

Nominated - 2017 Academy Award for Best Documentary Short Subject

Sponsored by Henry Ford Health System

Co-sponsored by B'nai B'rith Great Lakes Region, Federation's Maimonides Society

8 p.m.

### OPENING NIGHT

#### How the Jews Invented Hollywood - and Shaped the American Dream.

#### Guest Speaker: Leonard Maltin

Leonard Maltin is one of the world's most respected film critics and film historians, who appeared for 30 years on "Entertainment Tonight" and is the author of *Leonard Maltin's Movie Guide*. In this fascinating talk, he draws on his vast knowledge of movie history to share the story of how immigrant Jews became movie moguls who sold WASP America an idealized, non-ethnic image of itself. He will share his insights on the cultural impact of Jews in American show business and how that relates to our sense of humor.



Followed by:

#### The Last Laugh



88 minutes, USA, 2016, English

The world's foremost comedians debate the outer limits of comedy in *The Last Laugh*, an exploration of the taboo topic

of Holocaust humor and the implications for free speech.

Filmmaker Ferne Pearlstein puts prickly questions about the limits of subversive humor to a pantheon of funny people and Holocaust survivors to present an intriguing conversation as to whether - and where - to draw the line when it comes to jokes about so-called untouchable subjects.

Sponsored by The Berman Center for the Performing Arts; Co-sponsored by Temple Israel

2 p.m.

### Natasha



97 minutes, Canada, 2016, English, Russian with subtitles

The 16-year-old slacker son of Russian-Jewish immigrants is

jolted out of complacency by the arrival of his uncle's sexy stepdaughter in this provocative coming-of-age tale adapted from *New York Times* Notable Book *Natasha and Other Stories*, by David Bezmozgis.

Mark lives with his parents, who want him to get a summer job, but Mark is more interested in getting high. When his uncle's new wife arrives with her 14-year-old daughter, Mark is conscripted to take responsibility for her. They begin a secret romance that has tragic consequences for everyone.

Warning: Strong sexual content

Winner - Michael Moskowitz Award for Film and Video on a Jewish Theme, JPL Montreal - J.I. Segal Awards, 2016

Co-sponsored by The Active Life

5 p.m.

### Denial (At Shaarey Zedek)

#### Guest Speaker: Deborah Lipstadt



Based on the acclaimed book *Denial: Holocaust History on Trial*, this film recounts Deborah E. Lipstadt's legal battle for historical truth against David Irving, who accused her of libel when she declared him a Holocaust denier.

In the English legal system, in cases of libel, the burden of proof is on the defendant; therefore it was up to Lipstadt and her legal team to prove that the Holocaust occurred.

Film screening: 5 p.m.

Live presentation by Deborah Lipstadt: 7:30 p.m.

Cost: \$18 donation to the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit

Visit [jewishdetroit.org/denial](http://jewishdetroit.org/denial) for more information and to register.

Presented in partnership with the JDC

Tuesday, May 9

2 p.m.

## Germans and Jews



76 minutes, USA, 2016, English

In the aftermath of WWII and the crimes of the Holocaust, it seems unimaginable that Germany would emerge as one of the world's most democratic societies, with the fastest growing Jewish community in Europe.

Filmmakers Janina Quint and Tal Rezanati seek to understand these startling realities and contradictions by speaking with contemporary Germans of different backgrounds.

The often uneasy and conflicted conversations, as well as heartfelt testimonials, reveal an obsession with the past and a desire to move beyond historical hyper-awareness to a path of hope.

Co-sponsored by Henry & Delia Meyers Library and Media Center/Joan & Dr. Robert Jampel, Mardigian Library at the University of Michigan-Dearborn

5 p.m.

## Atlit



91 minutes, France, Israel, 2014, English, French and Hebrew with subtitles

Three French sisters - Darel, Cali and Asia - return to Israel to sell their parents' beloved family home in Atlit. Yet being reunited in the place where they shared so many memories makes each question the decision to sell the house - especially when their dead parents start appearing. In a single moment, as news of the assassination of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin spreads across the country, the personal and the political collide, changing the course of the country and the fate of a house in Atlit.

Nominated - Young Talent Award, Writer and Director Shirel Amitay, Hamburg Film Festival 2014

Sponsored by Raymond & Atara Zimmerman Philanthropic Fund

Co-sponsored by Esther & Neal Zalenko, Merton Segal

Tuesday, May 9 (cont.)

8 p.m.

## Wedding Doll



82 minutes, Israel, 2016, English, Hebrew with subtitles

Hagit, a mentally challenged young woman who lives with her mother, finds escape in designing bridal gowns and dolls, using leftover materials from the toilet paper factory where she works. All too aware of life's disappointments, Hagit's mother worries that her daughter cannot separate fantasy from real life. These aching, emotional dynamics culminate as the factory's closure threatens Hagit's dreams of marrying the boss' handsome son.

Winner - Best Actress, Best Director, Best Film, Best Costume Design, Israeli Film Academy, 2015

Winner - Haggiag Award for Best Actress

Co-sponsored by Terry & Martin Hollander, National Council of Jewish Women - Greater Detroit Section

Wednesday, May 10

2 p.m.

## Vita Activa: The Spirit of Hannah Arendt



125 minutes, Israel, Canada, 2015, English, German, French, Hebrew with subtitles

The subversive concept of the "Banality of Evil" caused an uproar in the 1960s when it was coined by German-Jewish philosopher Hannah Arendt as she was covering Adolph Eichmann's trial. Arendt's private life was equally controversial, thanks to her love affair with renowned German philosopher and Nazi supporter Martin Heidegger. A thought-provoking and spirited documentary, Vita Activa crafts an intimate portrait of Arendt's life, exploring the places where she lived, worked, loved and was betrayed as she wrote about the open wounds of modern times.

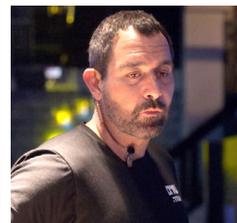
Winner - Jury Award, Best Documentary Film, Santa Barbara International Film Festival, 2016

Co-sponsored by Sugar Law Center for Economic & Social Justice

Wednesday, May 10 (cont.)

5 p.m.

## Our Father



107 minutes, Israel, 2016, Hebrew with subtitles

Tough but honorable Ovadia Rachmim works as a doorman at a Tel Aviv nightclub. Life at home with wife

Rachel is strained by the couple's fruitless efforts to conceive a child. Desperate to save his marriage, the cash-strapped Ovadia goes to work for a small-time mobster, collecting debts to pay for expensive fertility treatments. His eventual attempt to break free from a life of violent crime will test his loyalties and force a difficult choice between family and friends.

Our Father received a record-tying 12 Israeli Academy Award nominations, including Best Film. Co-sponsored by Karen & Jerald Kaufman

8 p.m.

## PATRON NIGHT

### On The Map



85 minutes, USA, 2016, English, Hebrew with subtitles

Following the film, please join us for a discussion with On The Map writer and director Dani Menkin.

Demoralized by the Yom Kippur War, the Munich Olympics massacre and a sagging economy, Israel was hungry for a collective triumph as it pursued the 1977 European Championship Tournament. Facing impossible odds, the underdog Maccabi Tel Aviv team, comprising Israeli players and NBA also-rans, confronts the powerhouse Soviets in the semifinals in the "Miracle on Hardwood." Offering a courtside seat to pulse-pounding action, this film celebrates a watershed moment of glory that many Israelis still regard as their nation's greatest sports achievement.

Film Festival Patrons are invited to a strolling dinner reception with the filmmaker prior to the screening. Reception is at 6:30 p.m.

Patron event sponsored by Jerold & Ellen Minkin Family Foundation

Film sponsored by Michigan Jewish Sports Foundation

Co-sponsored by Carol & Ronald Fogel, Frankel Jewish Academy of Metropolitan Detroit, JCC Men's Health Club, Michigan Israel Business Bridge, StandWithUs-Michigan

See page 3 for more information.

Thursday, May 11

11 a.m.

## On The Map

(At The Maple Theater)

Join us for a second screening of *On The Map*, and talk-back with writer/director Dani Menkin.



2 p.m.

## Persona Non Grata



139 minutes, Japan, 2016, English, Japanese with subtitles

The audacious, true story of the diplomat who acted against orders to save thousands of Jewish lives from Nazi extermination, *Persona Non Grata* follows Chiune Sugihara from his early days in Manchuria to his posting as Japan's consul in Lithuania during WWII.

Bound by the rigid policies of Japan and his country's treaty with Germany, Sugihara dares to risk career and family by issuing transit visas to imperiled refugees.

The only citizen of Japan recognized as Righteous Among the Nations by the Israeli government and honored at Yad Vashem, Sugihara helped more than 6,000 Jews escape to Japanese territory.

Co-sponsored by Holocaust Memorial Center Zekelman Family Campus, Jewish Senior Life Program for Holocaust Survivors and Families

### CHECK OUT the Janice Charach Gallery

The Janice Charach Gallery will be offering

**10% off**

all Gallery Shop items during Film Festival.

Thursday, May 11 (cont.)

5 p.m.

## Ben-Gurion, Epilogue



61 minutes, Israel, 2016, English, Hebrew with subtitles

Featuring never-before-seen footage, *Ben-Gurion, Epilogue*, presents the 82-year-old David Ben-Gurion in interviews at his secluded desert home in 1968.

Languishing for decades, the reels were inadvertently uncovered in the Steven Spielberg Jewish Film Archive in Jerusalem, with the soundtrack later found in the Ben-Gurion Archives in the Negev. In this rare piece of cinematic archeology, an introspective former prime minister reflects on the loss of his wife, his health, political legacy and hopes for Middle East peace. Interwoven with newsreels and images of the unassuming elder statesman's kibbutz life, it is a work of historical significance with prophetic implications for Israel's future.

Co-sponsored by Development Corporation for Israel

8 p.m.

## The Last Band in Lebanon



99 minutes, Israel, 2016, Hebrew, Arabic with subtitles

Set against the Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon in May 2000, this upbeat, offbeat comedy follows three reserve soldiers – all members of a military rock band – who wake up one morning to discover they've been left behind enemy lines. Caught between Hezbollah fighters and disgruntled Lebanese military, the three use the only tools at their disposal – their musical instruments – to chart their way through hostile territory and find a way home.

Co-sponsored by Heidi & Jeff Budaj, Jewish Gay Network, Sallyjo & H. Barry Levine

Friday, May 12

Noon

## Moon in the 12th House



110 minutes, Israel, 2015, Hebrew with subtitles

Once close, estranged Israeli sisters Mira and Lanny are now living very separate lives. Lanny, 21, is a sheltered introvert, still residing in her childhood home, taking care of her debilitated father and looking after the sexy teenage neighbor boy while his parents are away. Older sister Mira is a streetwise hostess at a Tel Aviv nightclub. One night Mira shows up at Lanny's door, and the reunion forces the sisters to face the tragedy that devastated their childhood.

Nominated - Best Supporting Actor, Gal Toren Best Supporting Actress, Yuval Scharf, Awards of the Israeli Film Academy, 2015

Nominated - Haggiag Award for Best Israeli Feature, Jerusalem Film Festival, 2016

Sponsored by Karen & Todd Sachse

2 p.m.

## Amor



82 minutes, Israel, France, 2016, Hebrew with subtitles

In a powerful meditation on love and painful choices, an artist faces a wrenching life-or-death decision.

After years of wandering, Daniel returns to his childhood home in Israel. He is back to see Lila, the love of his life.

A former ballet teacher, Lila has been bedridden for more than three years, without hope of recovery. Daniel's love for Lila faces its ultimate test: can he do the unimaginable and give her the release she cannot achieve herself? What price will he pay for this decision?

Sponsored by Renée & Earl Ishbia

Co-sponsored by Lenore & Sheldon Leemon

Sunday, May 14

2 p.m.

## The Pickle Recipe



97 minutes, USA, 2016, English

Following the film, please join us for a talk-back with writers Sheldon Cohn and Gary Wolfson, and director Michael Manasseri.

After a freak accident destroys his equipment, cash-strapped party emcee Joey Miller, the king of Detroit's Jewish party scene, is down on his luck, deeply in debt and short on funds for his daughter's upcoming bat mitzvah. Joey turns to family black sheep Uncle Morty, who agrees to a loan if Joey will steal his grandmother's closely guarded pickle recipe. Joey doubtfully sets out on an ill-fated mission to win over Grandma Rose, infiltrate her deli and secure her priceless pickle recipe in this endearing family comedy.

Nominated - Panavision Spirit Award for Independent Cinema, Michael Manasseri, Santa Barbara International Film Festival, 2016

Co-sponsored by Cohn-Haddow Center for Judaic Studies, Wayne State University, Hillel of Metro Detroit & Wayne State University, Sholem Aleichem Institute

8 p.m.

## The Women's Balcony



96 minutes, Israel, 2016, Hebrew with subtitles

What begins as a joyous celebration turns into disaster when a women's balcony at an Orthodox synagogue collapses, injuring the rabbi's wife and leaving her husband in shock. Stepping in to assume authority, the young Rabbi David dares to insist that the accident is a divine warning against female nonconformity. The ensuing battle of the sexes threatens to tear apart families until love is rekindled by a rebellious and progressive spirit.

Nominated Best Supporting Actress, Orna Banai, Best Supporting Actor, Avraham Aviv Alush, Awards of the Israeli Film Academy, 2016

Sponsored by the Behar Family - Ricky, TG, Nissim and Lily, and Shirley Sarah Chicorel Behar, in honor of Keter Torah / Sephardic Community of Greater Detroit's 100th Anniversary

Monday, May 15

2 p.m.

## Summer Solstice



96 minutes, Poland, Germany, 2015, Polish, German, Russian with subtitles

It's 1943 in the Polish countryside. The war has been going on for four years. Guido is a sensitive, jazz-loving 17-year-old soldier from

Hamburg, and his contemporary, Romek, is a Polish railway employee who scavenges the abandoned belongings of Jews transported to the death camps.

They're both in love with the same pretty girl. But youth and tenderness face devastating events and desperate decisions in the hostile environment of Nazi-occupied Poland.

Winner - Polish Films Competition, Jerzy Zielinski (cinematographer), Michal Rogalski (director), Camerimage, 2015

Winner - Best Screenplay, Michal Rogalski, Montréal World Film Festival, 2015

Co-sponsored by Pet Nosan

5 p.m.

## Operation Wedding



63 minutes, Israel, Latvia, Russia, USA, UK, 2016, English, Hebrew, Russian with subtitles

Following the film, please join us for a talk-back with director and producer Anat Zalmanson - Kuznetsov.

Operation Wedding is the extraordinary true story of how a daring group of Jewish dissidents planned to hijack a plane and leave the Soviet Union. Just steps from boarding when they were caught, and ultimately tried for high treason, the group included Sylva Zalmanson, who received 10 years in a gulag, and her husband Edward Kuznetsov, who received the death sentence.

Filmmaker Anat Zalmanson-Kuznetsov reveals the compelling story of her parents - "heroes" in the West but "terrorists" in Russia, even today.

Winner - Feature documentary, Hollywood International Independent Documentary Awards 2016

Sponsored by Barbara & Douglas Bloom, Bluma & Robert (z"l) Schechter, Elaine & Michael Serling  
Co-sponsored by FedEd, JCC's SAJE (Seminars for Adult Jewish Education)

Monday, May 15 (cont.)

8 p.m.

## A Grain of Truth



110 minutes, Poland, 2015, Polish with subtitles

Following the film, please join us for a talk-back with Rabbi Aaron Bergman.

Once the star of the Warsaw prosecutor's office, maverick prosecutor Teodor Szacki faces suspicion in the close-knit community as he investigates the brutal murder of a social activist whose body is discovered outside a former synagogue and the subsequent string of ritual killings.

Mysterious clues invoke historical blood libel myths rooted in Poland's anti-Semitic past. Teodor must rush to unravel the painful tangle of Polish-Jewish relations and solve the case while facing a rising tide of public hysteria.

Nominated - Critics Award, Director Borys Lankosz, Hamburg Film Festival, 2015

Sponsored by Credit Union ONE

Co-sponsored by Adat Shalom Synagogue, Oakland University Judaic Studies Program, ORT America-Michigan Region

Tuesday, May 16

2 p.m.

## The Pracht Inn



92 minutes, Israel, 2015, Hebrew, Yiddish with subtitles

Hovering between past trauma and the will to start life anew, tormented Holocaust immigrants face a reckoning of conscience in the halls of a 1960s Jerusalem hostel. A microcosm of the European lands they left behind, the Pracht Inn is a somber home to those still dealing with enormous grief.

The film's emotional core rests on the shoulders of Manfred, a widower who impels fellow residents to keep alive their Yiddish mother tongue, and in doing so, memories of the birthplace and loved ones from which they were separated.

Sponsored by Sophie Pearlstein

Co-sponsored by the JCC's 66th Annual Jewish Book Fair

5 p.m.

## How To Win Enemies



78 minutes, Argentina, 2016, Spanish with subtitles

Following the film, please join us for a talk-back with Rabbi Arturo Kalfus.

When Lucas, a young lawyer with a penchant for detective stories, meets Bárbara at a café, he is smitten. She is smart, sexy and has great taste in literature.

But after taking Bárbara home, Lucas wakes up to find his life savings and Bárbara gone. Determined to find her and to solve the mystery, Lucas uses detective skills gathered from his beloved books and winds up in an intriguing, twisted plot. Family, friends and co-workers come under investigation as Lucas pursues the truth in this witty and delightful comedy.

Nominated - Martin Slipak for Best Actor, Argentinean Film Critics Association Awards 2016

Sponsored by Sheri & David Jaffa

Co-sponsored by Cis Maisel Kellman, Temple Emanu-El

8 p.m.

## Norman Lear: Just Another Version of You



91 minutes, USA, 2016, English

Perhaps the most influential writer and producer in television history, Norman Lear made an indelible imprint on American culture by creating such beloved shows as *All in the Family*, *Maude* and *The Jeffersons*.

Tackling hot-button social issues through deft comedy and unusual characters, his 1970s primetime hits prompted household debates on race, class and gender equality. Lear's own colorful story, from his poor Jewish upbringing and WWII army service to his rise through show business ranks, unfolds through personal archives and adored TV moments.

Now 93 years old, Lear remains as sharp as ever as he watches and reacts to clips in the film.

Also included are spot-on testimonials from George Clooney, Rob Reiner, Mel Brooks, Carroll O'Connor, Beatrice Arthur and Sherman Helmsley, among many others, who celebrate the masterful showrunner who changed the face of television and the national discourse.

*Norman Lear: Just Another Version of You* is the definitive chronicle of Lear's life, work and achievements, the story of a psychologically rich man whose extraordinary contributions emerge from both his own life and a dialogue with the world.

Winner of:

- Rogue Award for Heidi Ewing and Rachel Grady, Ashland Independent Film Festival, 2016

- Slate Award for Best Documentary, California Independent Film Festival, 2016

- Audience Award for Documentary Feature, Montclair Film Festival, 2016

Co-sponsored by Anti-Defamation League, The Birmingham Temple, Hadassah Greater Detroit, Pam & Eugene Lumberg, Laurel Swartz & Eric Lumberg

8 p.m.

## SEED: The Untold Story (At MOCAD)



94 minutes, USA, 2016, English

Come for a seed activity before the film, and stay for a panel talk-back led by Rabbi Ariana Silverman following the film.

Few things on Earth are as miraculous and vital as seeds. These subtle flecks of life feed us, clothe us and provide the raw materials for everyday lives.

*SEED: The Untold Story* follows passionate seed keepers protecting the 12,000-year-old food legacy.

In the last century, 94 percent of seed varieties have disappeared. And today a battle rages between the chemical companies that control the majority of seeds and the farmers, scientists, lawyers and indigenous seed keepers determined to defend the future of food.

Co-sponsored by Hazon, Repair the World

2 p.m.

## SEED: The Untold Story

See Tuesday, May 16, 8 p.m. for description.

5 p.m.

## A Quiet Heart



92 minutes, Israel, 2016, English, Hebrew with subtitles

Suffering a crisis of confidence, a young concert pianist escapes the pressures of the music world only to find herself caught in the clash between Jerusalem's religious conservatives and secular liberals.

Naomi Sirad (*Game of Thrones* star Ania Bukstein) is overwhelmed by the expectations of parents and colleagues in Tel Aviv. She seeks refuge in Jerusalem, where she befriends a musically gifted Orthodox boy and a charismatic Italian monk and organist.

While these relationships allow Naomi to reconnect with her love of music, they also make her a target in her new community. Escalating isolation and violence force Naomi to use music to overcome towering religious barriers.

Winner - Best Screenplay, Haifa International Film Festival, 2016

Winner - Grand Prize, Eitan Anner, and Jury Prize for Best Actress Ania Bukstein, Tallinn Black Nights Film Festival, 2016

Co-sponsored by IRP (Institute for Retired Professionals)

## Jewish Ensemble Theater (JET)

To receive **50% OFF** one ticket to any film (excluding the Leonard Maltin event) at the 2017 Lenore Marwil Detroit Jewish Film Festival: Bring your ticket stub from the JET production of *An Act of God* (playing April 28-May 21) to The Berman.

To receive **\$5 OFF** the cost of a single ticket to the JET's production of *An Act of God*: Present a ticket from any film showing at the 2017 Lenore Marwil Detroit Jewish Film Festival at the JET box office.



## Wednesday, May 17 (cont.)

8 p.m.

### Hummus! The Movie



72 minutes, USA, Israel, 2016, English, Hebrew, Arabic with subtitles

Following the film, please join us for a talk-back with WDET producer Zak Rosen and photographer Marvin Shaouni.

Secret recipes, a Guinness World Record and the power of hummus to bring Muslims, Christians and Jews together... in the Middle East, America and around the world.

Three Israelis from different backgrounds share their love for a common dietary staple: hummus. Jalil, a young Christian-Arab from Ramla who has taken over his family's hummus restaurant, struggles with the urge to forge his own path.

Eliyahu, a former dread-headed vagrant turned Hasidic Jew, opens a chain of successful kosher hummus restaurants.

Suheila, the only woman to own her own business in the Arab market, has beaten 10 men for the Golden Pita Award for Best Hummus. Weaving together their stories, *Hummus! The Movie* shows how food can positively affect culture and transcend religious and political divides.

Sponsored by Sherwood Foods Distributors

Co-sponsored by Ameinu Detroit, C.H.A.I.M.-Children of Holocaust Survivors Association in Michigan, Hazon, Interfaith Leadership Council of Metropolitan Detroit, Isaac Agree Downtown Synagogue, WDET, WISDOM (Women's Interfaith Solutions for Dialogue and Outreach in Metro Detroit)

### SPECIAL EXHIBIT Hummus Heartland

**Throughout Film Festival:** Framed by WDET: *Hummus Heartland*, a collection of stories about Detroit's ubiquitous Middle Eastern food culture, will be on exhibit in The Berman lobby.

WDET brought together radio producer Zak Rosen and photographer Marvin Shaouni to tell intimate stories united by the iconic, delicious food staple, hummus.

## Thursday, May 18

5 p.m.

### Life, Animated



89 minutes, USA, 2016, English

Owen Suskind, son of Pulitzer Prize-winning writer Ron Suskind, was 3 years old when he was diagnosed with autism. As Owen withdrew into silence, his parents almost lost hope that their son would ever interact with anyone. And then something extraordinary occurred: through animated films, especially those of the Walt Disney Company, Owen found a way to understand the world, and his determined family found a way to connect with him.

From Academy Award-winning director Roger Ross Williams, this inspirational film follows Owen on his journey to having his own life, and charts his family's challenges as they prepare for an uncertain future with their son.

The Oscar-nominated "Life, Animated" was named Best Documentary by more than 11 international film festivals and received Best Director at the Sundance Film Festival and the Audience Award at the San Francisco International Film Festival.

Co-sponsored by Congregation Shir Tikvah, Congregation Shir Tikvah Sisterhood, Friendship Circle

## Thursday, May 18 (cont.)

8 p.m.

### Harmonia



97 minutes, Israel, 2016, Hebrew with subtitles

The beautiful harpist Sarah is married to Abraham, the charismatic conductor of the Jerusalem Philharmonic Orchestra. With no children, their melancholy life revolves around music.

Enter Hagar, a young French-Arab horn player from eastern Jerusalem, who joins the orchestra and becomes close to Sarah. Their bond gives way to something more fraught when Hagar offers to carry the couple's baby in this contemporary adaptation of the biblical tale of Abraham and Sarah. Two rival prodigies are born—one Jewish, one Arab—leading to a metaphoric and multi-generational clash of cultures that can ultimately be reconciled only through music.

Winner - Haggai Award and Van Leer Award for Best Cinematography, Jerusalem International Film Festival, Israel, 2016

Sponsored by Natalie & Manny Charach, Andi & Larry Wolfe

## A PLAY IN A DAY

### Sunday, May 21

11 a.m. – Workshop begins

3:30 p.m. – Performance

TICKETS START AT \$15



Join us for a day of learning, excitement and entertainment for children 5 and older! Boys and girls will learn a 30-minute play – complete with acting, dancing and singing – in just one day! The workshop ends with a performance at 3:30 p.m. for parents and friends.

[theberman.org/aplayinaday](http://theberman.org/aplayinaday) • 248.661.1900



The Jewish Community Center  
of Metropolitan Detroit



THE BERMAN  
Center for the Performing Arts

# Thank you to our 2017 donors, volunteers and committee members.

*Without you, we could not continue to bring these world-class films to Michigan.*

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Lenore Marwil Detroit Jewish Film Festival Fund

*\*Denotes Pillar of Light donors. Pillars of Light  
donate \$5,000 and above annually to Jewish  
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*Contributors to the Flint film festival will be  
acknowledged at their location.*

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*As of 2/14/17*

*Pillars of Light donate \$5,000 and more annually to Jewish Community Center programming.*

**For more information about becoming a Pillar of Light, please call the development department at 248.432.5418.**

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*Presented in partnership with the  
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## DEFIANT REQUIEM

**Sunday, April 30 • 7:45 p.m.**

**The Berman Center for the Performing Arts**

*No charge*

*Defiant Requiem*, a feature-length documentary, highlights a dramatic example of intellectual and artistic courage in Theresienstadt and the remarkable story of Rafael Schächter, a brilliant, young Czech conductor. Schächter was sent in 1941 to the concentration camp, where he recruited 150 prisoners and taught them, by rote, Verdi's "Requiem."

The piece was then performed on 16 occasions, the most infamous on June 23, 1944 before high-ranking SS officers and the International Red Cross - to support the charade that the prisoners were treated well.

**In addition to the documentary, on Thursday, May 4 at 7:30 p.m. the Detroit Symphony Orchestra will perform *The Defiant Requiem: Verdi at Terezin* at Congregation Shaarey Zedek as part of the Davidson Neighborhood Series.**

Tickets are \$25. For DSO tickets only call 313.576.5111.



The Jewish Community Center  
of Metropolitan Detroit

## LENORE MARWIL DETROIT JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL

Jewish Community Center of Metropolitan Detroit  
D. Dan & Betty Kahn Building  
Eugene & Marcia Applebaum Jewish Community Center Campus  
6600 W. Maple Road, West Bloomfield, MI 48322  
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# Lenore Marwil Detroit Jewish Film Festival HIGHLIGHTS

On **Opening Night** we're rolling out the red carpet with Leonard Maltin. Come hear the noted film critic and historian talk about Jewish humor in film and see ***The Last Laugh***.

(See page 4 for more information.)



**Patron Night** will be a slam dunk! Enjoy a strolling dinner, screening and talk-back with Dani Menkin, writer and director of ***On The Map***.

(See page 5 for more information.)

To become a patron, contact Linda Levy at [llevy@jccdet.org](mailto:llevy@jccdet.org) or 248.432.5652.

**A Delicious Night**  
***Hummus! The Movie***  
with guests WDET producer Zak Rosen and photographer Marvin Shaouni.

(See page 9 for more information.)



## SPECIAL EXHIBIT: Hummus Heartland

**Framed by WDET: Hummus Heartland** is a collection of stories about Detroit's ubiquitous Middle Eastern food culture. WDET brought together radio producer Zak Rosen and photographer Marvin Shaouni to tell intimate stories united by the iconic, delicious food staple – hummus.

*The exhibit will be in the lobby of The Berman Center for the Performing Arts during Film Festival.*