



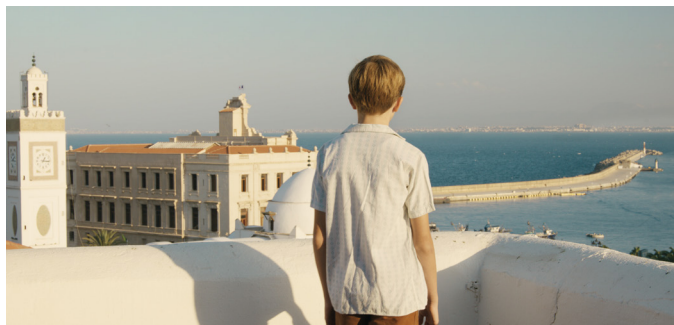
presents the

19th Annual

**PIONEER
VALLEY
JEWISH
FILM
FESTIVAL**

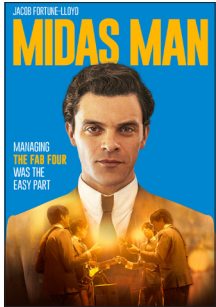
April 3 – 8, 2025

Sharing vibrant stories of
Jewish life and community through film



OPENING NIGHT MIDAS MAN

THURSDAY, APRIL 3 at 7:00 PM
YIDDISH BOOK CENTER, AMHERST



Set against the kaleidoscopic backdrop of 1960s London, this stylish biopic explores the genius and demons of the trailblazing Jewish manager hailed as the “fifth Beatle.” Brian Epstein’s

visionary efforts catapulted The Beatles from a scrappy Liverpool band into the biggest music phenomenon that defined a generation. This captivating film chronicles Epstein’s unyielding belief in The Beatles’ potential, and the personal toll he paid as he sacrificed everything to elevate his artists to the pinnacle of fame.

Festive reception at 6:30 PM before the film

2024 | NARRATIVE FEATURE | UK | 102 MINUTES
DIRECTED BY JOE STEPHENSON

AIN'T NO BACK TO A MERRY-GO-ROUND

FRIDAY, APRIL 4 at 2:00 PM
BASKETBALL HALL OF FAME
SPRINGFIELD



A sit-in by Howard University students on a segregated carousel in Maryland sparks an unlikely Black-Jewish alliance, igniting national headlines and a defining moment in the Civil Rights

Movement. Following their act of defiance at Glen Echo Amusement Park in the summer of 1960, Black activists and descendants of Holocaust survivors marched side by side, picketing to confront discrimination. They faced arrests, violent counter-protesters, media scrutiny, and the American Nazi Party. Vivid firsthand testimonies and historical footage contextualize this transformative yet little-known moment in the fight for equality.

Special guests include Director Ilana Trachtman, in conversation with award-winning filmmaker Larry Hott; and Amy Bookbinder, who appears as a child in the film.

2024 | DOCUMENTARY | USA | 90 MINUTES
DIRECTED BY ILANA TRACHTMAN

THE PROPERTY

SATURDAY, APRIL 5 at 7:45 PM
SPRINGFIELD JCC



Fiercely proud Regina (veteran Israeli comic actress Rivka Michaeli) and her granddaughter Mika (Sharon Strimban) embark on a journey from Israel to Warsaw’s wintry streets to reclaim property

seized during World War II. What begins as a quest to reclaim a family flat becomes a deep journey of self-discovery and reconciliation. Dana Modan’s touching adaptation of her sister Rutu Modan’s award-winning graphic novel is nominated for four Israeli Academy Awards, including Best Actor, Best Actress, and Best Screenplay.

Dessert reception at 7:15 PM before the film

Co-sponsored by The Neta Bolozky and Yaffa Gunner Fund

2025 | NARRATIVE FEATURE | ISRAEL, POLAND
108 MINUTES | DIRECTED BY DANA MODAN

WELCOME TO YIDDISHLAND

SUNDAY, APRIL 6 at 11:00 AM
YIDDISH BOOK CENTER, AMHERST



This captivating documentary offers an upbeat, witty, and timely exploration of a global community of artists who are rediscovering and revitalizing the endangered Yiddish language through

their progressive and provocative creative works. As we travel through Yiddishland

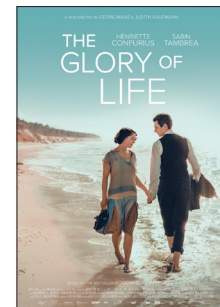
– not a homeland but a heartland without borders - we journey across continents, from Melbourne to Berlin, New York to Haifa to meet the diverse array of individuals who find solace, identity and inspiration within Yiddish language and culture.

Special guests include Lisa Newman, Director of Publishing and Public Programs, and Caleb Sher, Sr. Bibliography Fellow, Yiddish Book Center.

2024 | DOCUMENTARY | AUSTRALIA
97 MINUTES | DIRECTED BY ROS HORIN

THE GLORY OF LIFE

SUNDAY, APRIL 6 at 2:00 PM
YIDDISH BOOK CENTER, AMHERST



Set against the picturesque Baltic Sea coast in 1923, this tender drama captures Franz Kafka’s final year, transformed by the redemptive power of love. The fragile writer, battling tuberculosis and an

overbearing family, finds an unforeseen connection with Dora Diamant, a spirited young woman working at a Jewish community center. Their romance blooms into a profound partnership, carrying them through Berlin to an Austrian sanatorium where Kafka confronts his mortality with newfound peace.

2024 | NARRATIVE FEATURE | AUSTRIA, GERMANY | 104 MINUTES | DIRECTED BY JUDITH KAUFMANN AND GEORGE MAAS

BAD SHABBOS

SUNDAY, APRIL 6 at 6:30 PM
GREENFIELD GARDEN CINEMAS



A Shabbat dinner goes terribly wrong in this fast-paced, ensemble comedy. David and Meg - an engaged interfaith couple - plan to introduce the bride’s Catholic parents from Wisconsin to the groom’s

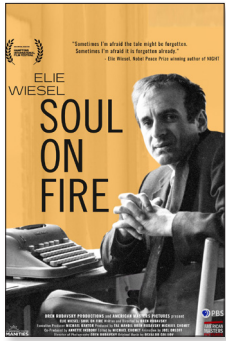
Jewish family at a Shabbat family dinner in

Manhattan. That is, until an accidental dead body gets in the way of introductions! The star-studded cast includes Kyra Sedgwick and David Paymer, as well as a sensational comic performance by rapper Method Man.

2024 | DRAMATIC COMEDY | USA | 90 MINUTES
DIRECTED BY DANIEL ROBBINS

ELIE WIESEL: SOUL ON FIRE

MONDAY, APRIL 7 at 7:00 PM
BASKETBALL HALL OF FAME
SPRINGFIELD



This essential documentary offers an intimate and unprecedented look into the life and legacy of writer, political activist, Nobel laureate, and Holocaust survivor Elie Wiesel. With exclusive access to

Wiesel's family and personal archives, the film delves into the passions, struggles, and enduring impact of a man who became a powerful voice for human rights. It also explores the driving forces behind Wiesel's relentless advocacy, the dilemmas he faced, and the relevance of his teachings today, as the memory of the Holocaust is fading.

Special guests include Susan Goldman, clinical psychologist, and Dr. Simon Sibelman, Professor Emeritus, French and Holocaust Studies, University of Wisconsin Oshkosh.

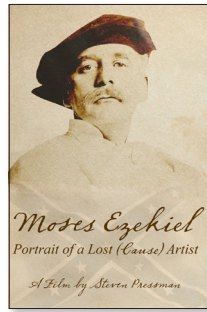
Co-sponsored by Dr. Marc and Susan Goldman

2024 | DOCUMENTARY | USA | 87 MINUTES
DIRECTED BY OREN RUDAVSKY

MOSES EZEKIEL: PORTRAIT OF A LOST ARTIST

TUESDAY, APRIL 8 at 2:00 PM
D'AMOUR MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS
SPRINGFIELD MUSEUMS

Moses Ezekiel (1844-1917) was a world-famous American sculptor, who had been born and raised in a large Jewish family in Richmond, VA. Before becoming an artist, he was the first Jewish cadet to be



enrolled at the Virginia Military Institute and was among a class of cadets who fought for the Confederacy in the 1864 Battle of New Market during the U.S. Civil War. This documentary tells Ezekiel's story, while also focusing on the modern-day debate over the presence of Confederate monuments in the U.S., including those made by Ezekiel.

Post-screening discussion with Stuart Greene, military history instructor.

2024 | DOCUMENTARY | USA | 56 MINUTES
DIRECTED BY STEVEN PRESSMAN

CLOSING NIGHT THE BLOND BOY FROM THE CASBAH

TUESDAY, APRIL 8 at 7:00 PM
AMHERST CINEMA



Passionate filmmaker Antoine travels to his birthplace, Algiers, with his young son to present his new film: an account of his childhood in 1960s Algeria during the country's civil war. As he wanders through the city, the filmmaker immerses us in the moments of laughter and tears of his childhood – spent between school, friends, and his Sephardic Jewish family. Growing up in the final moments of Algeria's pre-independence period, the young Antoine discovers his profound fascination with cinema and starts to understand who he truly is. A joyful and nostalgic love letter to the Algiers of prolific French filmmaker Alexandre Arcady's youth, this enchanting drama won Best Film at the UK Jewish Film Festival.

Post-screening discussion with Dr. Simon Sibelman, Professor Emeritus, French and Holocaust Studies, University of Wisconsin Oshkosh.

2024 | NARRATIVE FEATURE
FRANCE | 126 MINUTES
DIRECTED BY ALEXANDRE ARCADY



Your Support Makes the Difference

We invite you to partner with the Pioneer Valley Jewish Film Festival and help the festival grow. Your generous contributions help raise the curtain on meaningful, thought-provoking films and ensure that PVJFF thrives in the years to come.

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springfieldjcc.org/pvjff



2025 Ticket Information

TICKET PRICES

General Admission: \$12

HOW TO ORDER TICKETS

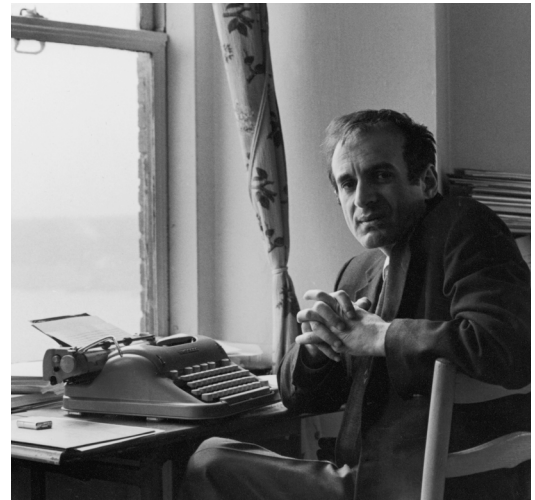
In Advance: Buy tickets quickly and easily at springfieldjcc.org/pvjff. For additional assistance purchasing tickets, please call (413) 739-4715 or stop by the Springfield JCC Welcome Desk. Advance ticket purchase is strongly encouraged, as films do sell out.

PVJFF-Ticketed Films:

- No service or transaction fees.
- PVJFF online box office closes one hour before the film is set to screen.
- No paper tickets will be issued. If you've purchased tickets in advance, simply check in when you arrive at the venue.

Separate Ticketing: Please note that PVJFF films showing at the Amherst Cinema and Greenfield Garden Cinemas require separate ticking through their box offices. Service or transaction fees may apply.

At the Door: Limited tickets will be sold at the door starting 30 minutes before the screening, for as long as seating is available.



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Due to circumstances beyond our control, film programs are subject to change without prior notice.
- Please allow extra time to park and walk to the venue.
- For more information about the screenings, contact us at (413) 739-4715.



springfieldjcc.org/pvjff

VENUES

AMHERST

Amherst Cinema
28 Amity Street
(413) 253-2547

Yiddish Book Center

1021 West Street
(413) 256-4900

GREENFIELD

Greenfield Garden Cinemas
361 Main Street
(413) 774-4881

SPRINGFIELD

Basketball Hall of Fame
1000 Hall of Fame Avenue
(877) 446-6752

Springfield JCC

Goldstein Auditorium
Neal Webber Building
1160 Dickinson Street
(413) 739-4715

Springfield Museums

D'Amour Museum of Fine Arts
Davis Auditorium
21 Edwards Street
(413) 263-6800

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