

CELEBRATING
20
YEARS

**PIONEER
VALLEY
JEWISH
FILM
FESTIVAL**

April 30 – May 6, 2026



OPENING NIGHT ONCE UPON MY MOTHER

THURSDAY, APRIL 30 AT 7:00 PM
BASKETBALL HALL OF FAME,
SPRINGFIELD



A sweeping, laughter-through-tears family saga spanning 1960s Paris to the present, this exuberant crowd-pleaser traces a Moroccan-Jewish mother's unshakable belief that love, faith, and sheer willpower

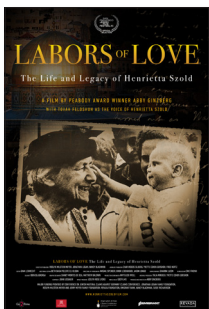
can rewrite her son's destiny. A fiery and wondrous adaptation of an autobiographical novel by French writer Roland Perez, the upbeat and miraculous *Once Upon My Mother* beautifully demonstrates the complex phenomenon of a mother's single-minded, against-all-odds devotion.

Opening night reception at 6:30 PM

DIRECTED BY KEN SCOTT | FRANCE | DRAMA | 2025 | FRENCH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 102 MINS.

LABORS OF LOVE

FRIDAY, MAY 1 AT 1:30 PM
SPRINGFIELD JCC



A visionary leader and one of history's most influential, yet under-recognized, American Jewish women, Henrietta Szold left an indelible mark on the 20th century. She founded Hadassah in 1912 and,

through this organization, mobilized generations of American Jewish women to support health care and education in Israel. Hadassah established the region's modern healthcare system, built on a mandate to treat Arabs and Jews equally. Later, she spearheaded Youth Aliyah, an operation that rescued 11,000 Jewish children from Nazi Europe.

Dessert reception at 1:00 PM. Pre-recorded interview with director Abby Ginzberg to follow the film.

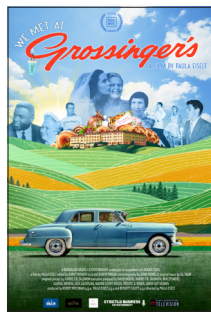
Dessert reception sponsored by Hadassah Southern New England. Co-sponsored by

Susan and Dr. Marc Goldman and by Halina Wiczky and Jim Rosenthal.

DIRECTED BY ABBY GINZBERG | USA | DOCUMENTARY | 2025 | ENGLISH | 79 MINS.

WE MET AT GROSSINGER'S

SATURDAY, MAY 2 AT 8:00 PM
YIDDISH BOOK CENTER, AMHERST



Built by three generations of trailblazing women, Grossinger's Resort and Hotel in the Catskills stood at the center of a world Jews built for themselves after being shut out of America's mainstream resorts

and clubs. This nostalgic, immersive film brings to life a mid-century phenomenon that united immigrants, sports legends, politicians, comedians, and movie stars around a lasting belief that inclusivity, creativity and leisure lie at the heart of what it truly means to be American.

Co-sponsored by the Yiddish Book Center

DIRECTED BY PAULA EISELT | USA | DOCUMENTARY | 2025 | ENGLISH | 104 MINS.

SHORT FILM SHOWCASE

SUNDAY, MAY 3 AT 1:00 PM
GREENFIELD GARDEN CINEMAS



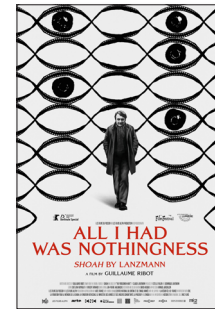
PVJFF's popular short film showcase is back! Enjoy a curated collection of narrative, documentary, and animated works highlighting global Jewish experiences, culture, and history. These films

offer engaging, original stories in a compact format. This year's shorts program includes *Beshert* (UK), *Butterfly* (France, Academy Award-nominated), *Call Me Papa: The Letters of Otto Frank* (USA), *Fiddler on the Moon: Judaism in Space* (USA), and *JewCE: The Jewish Comics Experience* (USA).

Co-sponsored by Barron Ackerman Family

ALL I HAD WAS NOTHINGNESS

SUNDAY, MAY 3 AT 7:00 PM
TOWER THEATERS, SOUTH HADLEY



Forty years after Claude Lanzmann's monumental 9-hour film *Shoah* reshaped how the world remembers the Holocaust, filmmaker Guillaume Ribot returned to Lanzmann's original materials and created a profound and riveting documentary all his own. Ribot pays homage to one of cinema's masterpieces and to its director's relentless pursuit of telling the untold. More than a "making-of" documentary, *All I Had Was Nothingness* stands as a moving meditation on memory, testimony, and the power of cinema to confront history.

Post-film discussion with Simon Sibelman, Professor Emeritus of French and Holocaust Studies at the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh, and former Executive Director of the Virginia Holocaust Museum

DIRECTED BY GUILLAUME RIBOT | FRANCE | DOCUMENTARY | 2025 | FRENCH, POLISH, ENGLISH, HEBREW, AND GERMAN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 94 MINS.

HOLA! CHAU

MONDAY, MAY 4 AT 7:00 PM
GREENFIELD GARDEN CINEMAS



Marcello (beloved Israeli musician Pablo Rosenberg), an Argentinian-Israeli aspiring film director, shares a crowded home with his wife, their adult children, a son-in-law, a grandchild,

and a sharp-tongued mother-in-law. But when his estranged Argentine father and sister suddenly arrive for a three-week visit after a decade apart, the drama—and the comedy—hits the roof. *Hola! Chau* is a charming look at forgiveness, family chaos, and bridging generations, offering spirited

humor, tender moments, and a refreshing reminder of what family is all about.

Co-sponsored by *The Neta Bolozky and Yaffa Gunner Fund*

DIRECTED BY YOHANAN (JORGE) WELLER | ISRAEL | DRAMEDY | 2025 | HEBREW AND SPANISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 86 MINS.

MAINTENANCE ARTIST

TUESDAY, MAY 5 AT 1:30 PM

D'AMOUR MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS, SPRINGFIELD



After seeing Mierle Laderman Ukeles' revolutionary art-making unfold in this eye-opening film, you will quickly find yourself in awe of Ukeles the person, as well as her quietly subversive work. For nearly 60 years,

including as the longstanding artist-in-residence of NYC's Department of Sanitation, her canvas has been the streets, landfills, and workplaces of New York, uplifting everyday acts of human service—cleaning, maintenance, housework—in collaborative public art projects inspired by her deeply humanistic interpretation of Judaism. This compelling documentary tells the story of an artist who redefined the meaning of art and labor.

DIRECTED BY TOBY PERL FREILICH | USA | DOCUMENTARY | 2025 | ENGLISH | 95 MINS.

HOLDING LIAT

TUESDAY, MAY 5 AT 7:00 PM

BASKETBALL HALL OF FAME, SPRINGFIELD



On the morning of October 7, 2023, Israeli-American Liat Atzili and her husband Aviv were at home when Hamas attacked their kibbutz. By nightfall, Liat and Aviv are captives in Gaza along with 250 other

people—12 of whom, like Liat, are American citizens. Caught between international diplomacy and a rapidly escalating war, their family must face their own uncertainty and

conflicting political perspectives in the pursuit of Liat and Aviv's release. This agonizing process, and the ultimate fate of their loved ones, challenges how the members of the family understand themselves and their place in the conflict. Through the intimate lens of a family's experience, *Holding Liat* poses complex questions of identity across generations, as the family is thrust into the epicenter of a global conflict rapidly unfolding in real-time. Shortlisted for the 2026 Academy Awards.

Post-film discussion with producer **Lance Kramer**

Co-sponsored by *Temple Beth El*

DIRECTED BY BRANDON KRAMER | USA | DOCUMENTARY | 2025 | ENGLISH AND HEBREW WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 97 MINS

CLOSING NIGHT THE SOUNDMAN

WEDNESDAY, MAY 6 AT 7:00 PM

AMHERST CINEMA

On the eve of the German invasion in 1940



Belgium, a tender attachment forms between a gifted young radio apprentice and a rising Jewish actress, their hopes colliding with a world edging toward war. Inside Brussels' famed Flagey Building, 18-year-old

Berre—an introverted talent with a magical ear—rises from intern to sound engineer, crafting transportive live radio drama soundscapes that captivate Elza, a luminous on-air performer seeking joy in uncertain times. Through lyrical visuals, sumptuous period detail, and breathtaking use of sound, this singular prewar tale delivers an immersive WWII-era drama unlike any other.

Post-film discussion with **Simon Sibelman, Professor Emeritus of French and Holocaust Studies at the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh, and former Executive Director of the Virginia Holocaust Museum**

DIRECTED BY FRANK VAN PASSEL | BELGIUM | DRAMA | 2025 | DUTCH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 118 MINS.

springfieldjcc.org/pvjff



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.

Make Your Gift Today!



PIONEER VALLEY JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL

2026 Ticket Information

TICKET PRICES

General Admission: \$14

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, Greenfield Garden Cinemas, and South Hadley's Tower Theaters require separate ticketing 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.

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

SOUTH HADLEY

Tower Theaters
19 College Street
(413) 533-3456

SPRINGFIELD

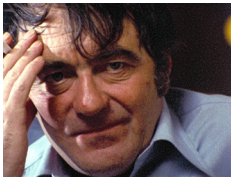
Basketball Hall of Fame
1000 Hall of Fame Avenue
(877) 446-6752

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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