



**MAINE JEWISH
FILM FESTIVAL**

**26th ANNUAL MAINE JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL
DESTINATIONS UNKNOWN**

MARCH 1-9, 2025

GET TICKETS AT MJFF.ORG





MAZEL TOV!

to the Maine Jewish Film Festival

From the bright lights above Portland to the bright lights of the silver screen.



207-CALL-JOE

joebornstein.com    

Maine lawyers working for Maine people since 1974.

SANFORD • BIDDEFORD • PORTLAND • WINDHAM • LEWISTON • AUGUSTA • BANGOR

WELCOME!

Dear Friends of MJFF,

It is with great excitement that we bring to your attention our 26th Annual Film Festival, scheduled for March 1-9 in Portland, Brunswick, Lewiston and Waterville. Our theme is “Destinations Unknown”, and this theme exemplifies all the places our 15 evocative and engaging films will take you to, not only geographically, but also imaginatively. You will laugh and cry, you will explore and learn, and ultimately you will be inspired. In addition to the Films, the Festival includes an opening and closing reception and a variety of talks and presentations.

MJFF is all about connection: our mission is to promote connection and conversation through the lens of Jewish film. Over the years, we have brought people together representing a diversity of religious background, age range and geography. Our attendees are inspired and learn not only from our films and programming, but also from one another. So please join us!

Please visit our website mjff.org, for full listings and descriptions of our films and related programming, and also to find ticketing information. We very much look forward to seeing you in March. And when you do so, please introduce yourselves to us, our Executive Director David Andrusia, and to members of our Board. We very much want to hear from you.

Warmest regards,

Lawrence Green, President & Melinda Molin, Vice President

Thank you to our festival sponsors!

Principal



Major



Corporate



TANDEM COFFEE ROASTERS



THE JEWISH FUNERAL HOME
PORTLAND CHEVRA KADISHA



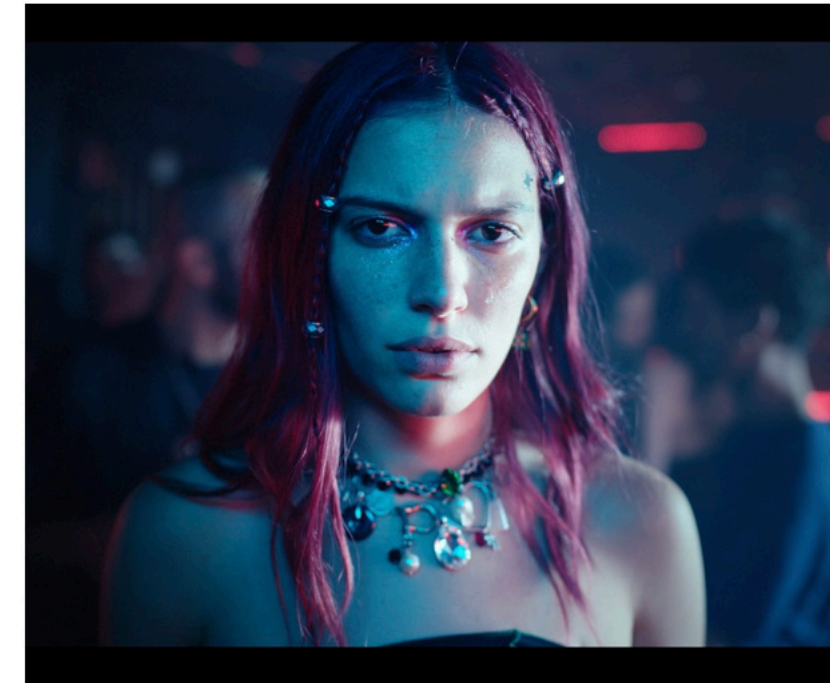
Come Closer

1 hr 47 min

Israel

Genre: Documentary

Director: Tom Nasher



**Saturday, March 1 – 5:00 p.m. – Portland Museum of Art
Thursday, March 6 – 7:00 p.m. – Eveningstar, Brunswick**

Eden has an unbreakable attachment to her young brother Nati (Ido Tako). Having to grow up with divorced parents drew them closer, so much so that they planned to flee their shattered family dynamic once Nati came of age. After an endless night of celebrating Nati's latest birthday, he sneaks away to spend time with his secret girlfriend Maya. However, he never makes it to her. A tragic accident claims Nati's life, leaving Eden and Maya desperate to hold onto the memories of him. The best way they know how is to entrust their hearts and sorrows with each other.

Pre-recorded intro by director Tom Nasher.

Portland screening will be followed by Opening Reception.

**“A sexy, modern and uncommonly introspective debut feature”
– Variety**

Thank you to our festival supporters!

Supporters

Bernard Osher
Harold Alfond Foundation
Goldberg Family Foundation
Haste Family Foundation
Moser Family Foundation
D. Suzi Osher Foundation
Perdue Foundation
Simmons Foundation

Serets

Randi Greenwald and Lowell Turnbull
Eve Nelson and Neil Kurzman
Norman and Judy Wilson
Melinda Molin
Lawrence and Denise Green
Peggy Greenhut Golden
Eleanor Goldberg
Robert Gips
Angie Bryan
Jamie and Kris Isaacson

The True Story of Tamara de Lempicka & The Art of Survival

1 hr 36 min United States Genre: Documentary Director: Julie Rubio



Sunday, March 2 – 12:00 p.m. – Portland Museum of Art

A visually stunning and sweeping feature documentary that traces the life and survival of the renowned painter through her powerful paintings – from her rise to international stardom in 1920s Paris, to her move to the United States in 1940, fleeing the rise of fascism, and her revival in the current art market. Tamara de Lempicka was the preeminent Art Deco painter, known for her high-gloss sensual nudes and portraits of high society during the Jazz Age. She was marginalized and gained notoriety for her romantic liaisons with her models and her indulgent, decadent lifestyle, but she was so much more.

“Groundbreaking” - Bay Area Reporter



*It's the
time of your life!*

OceanView at Falmouth is a locally owned and managed retirement community and a proud sponsor of the **Maine Jewish Film Festival**. Just minutes from Portland, we offer an independent, active lifestyle on 80 beautifully wooded acres with a heated four-season saltwater pool. You can enjoy maintenance-free living in a wide variety of cottages and apartments, with peace of mind for the future.

With a 35+ year history of energy-efficient construction and alternative energy sources, we welcome you to join us and our commitment to a greener, more sustainable future.



For more information,
call or visit our website today!
oceanviewrc.com · (207) 781-4460
20 Blueberry Lane, Falmouth, ME 04105

OceanView
AT • FALMOUTH
A 21st century retirement community™

The Ride Ahead

1 hr 33 min United States **Genre:** Documentary **Director:** Samuel Habib, Dan Habib



Sunday, March 2, 2:00 p.m. Bates College, Pettengill Hall G 52
Monday, March 3, 2:00 p.m. Jewish Community Alliance of Southern Maine

Samuel Habib's goals are pretty typical for a 21-year-old. Moving out of his family's New Hampshire home. College. Establishing his career. Dating. Sex. Yet every rite of passage is fraught with challenges. Unexpected seizures and uncontrollable movements caused by his rare genetic disorder. Friends' homes that are inaccessible to his wheelchair. His labored speech and use of a communication device are barriers to a social life. He craves more independence and a family of his own one day. "But no one tells you how to be an adult," he says, "let alone an adult with a disability."

"The Ride Ahead is a sensitive (but not sentimental), honest, and moving documentary that shines a light on exclusion, rejection, and major systemic inadequacies for disabled people."
- The Lancet. Neurology; WMUR ABC



There is an art to living well.

Enjoying the best of Portland's arts offering—like the Maine Jewish Film Festival—is part of it.

INDEPENDENT LIVING AT THE ATRIUM is luxurious and carefree, focused on wellness and personal growth, and filled with culture, activities, and friends. From farm-to-table dining to the saltwater pool, we give you the time to truly enjoy all Portland, Maine offers.

Schedule your personal visit today!
640 Ocean Avenue, Portland, Maine
(207) 221-7100 | thecedarsportland.org



Vishniac

1 hr 35 mins

United States

Genre: Documentary

Director: Laura Bialis



Sunday, March 2 – 3:00 p.m. – Portland Museum of Art

Stunning, iconic, heartbreaking and yet life-affirming at once, Roman Vishniac's photographs of Eastern European Jews in the 1930s are imprinted in our collective memory as the last visual records of a world wiped out in the Holocaust. The story of their creation, and of the fascinating man behind them, has never been told. Until now.

With a special introduction by photographer Nanci Kahn, Curator of Photography at Maine Jewish Museum; Assistant Preparator at Portland Museum of Art

“The documentary Vishniac reminds us why we should never forget.”
-- E. Nina Rothe

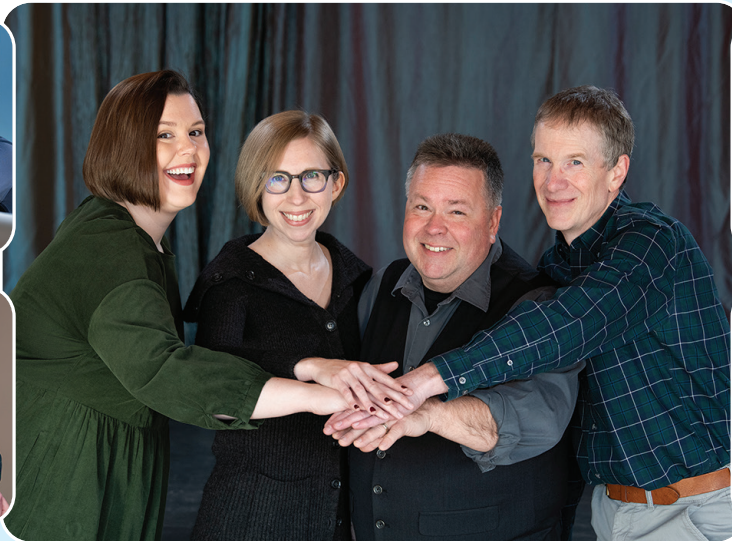
INSPIRING · ENTERTAINING · TRUSTED



Heather McDougall



Gale Parmelee



Joe Boucher



Sarah Tuttle

Meet the Maine Public Classical team at mainepublic.org!



Torah Tropical

1 hr 40 min Colombia **Genre:** Documentary

Director: Jimmy Furguson, Ezra Axelrod, Gloria Nancy Monslave



Monday, March 3 – 7:00 p.m. – The Hill Arts
Tuesday, March 4 – 7:00 p.m. – Bates College, Olin Arts Center 104

In a tropical paradise turned dystopian by the Drug War, struggling Colombian parents Isska and Menajem reinvent themselves as Orthodox Jews. During a year in which reality and a religious parable collide, they risk everything in an attempt at immigrating to Israel, putting their family and faith to the ultimate test.

Discussion with Producer, Heidi Paster at both screenings.



We cover the film, theater, music and culture that you love throughout the state.

Subscribers get access to it all: pressherald.com/subscribe

MAINE TRUST
– for Local News –



pressherald.com



centralmaine.com



sunjournal.com



There is no **Beauty** but the beauty of **Action**

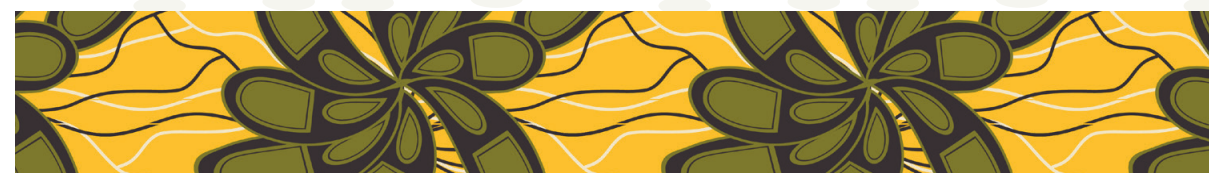
At Coffee By Design, we know that community is not just a word. It reveals itself in action. In how we show up for each other, how we gather, how we stand together. In good times and bad, we must look to each other for strength, for dignity, and for a brighter future to come. Our unwavering, ongoing belief and commitment is that all are welcome at our table, and always will be.



PROUD SPONSOR OF
MAINE JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL

1 DIAMOND STREET • PORTLAND

coffeebydesign.com  



Ain't No Back to a Merry-Go-Round

89 mins

United States

Genre: Documentary

Director: Ilana Trachtman



Tuesday, March 4, 7:00 p.m. – The Hill Arts

The untold story of the first organized interracial civil rights protest in U.S history. When five Howard University students sat on a Maryland carousel in 1960, the arrests made headlines. With never-before seen footage, and immersive storytelling by Emmy-award winning director Ilana Trachtman (*Praying with Lior*, *Black in Latin America*, *The Pursuit*), four living protesters rescue this forgotten history, revealing the price, and the power, of heeding the impulse to activism. Includes voice overs by noted actors Jeffrey Wright, Mandy Patinkin, Bob Balaban, Lee Grant, Peter Gallagher, Dominique Thorne, Alysia Reiner and Tracie Thoms.

“stirring ... enraging ... Inspiring”. – Baltimore Magazine

The Maine Jewish Film Festival celebrates filmmaking—inspiring conversation through the lens of global Jewish experience. Innovative programming invites a diverse statewide audience into the dialogue.

Congratulations on your 25th anniversary, Film is a vital connection to the global Jewish experience

– Kim Volk, President



Maine Advisory Associates

Securing what matters—your future

Registered Investment Advisor

Kim@maineadvisory.com • (207) 778-2250
www.maineadvisory.com

Bad Shabbos

1 hr 24 min

United States

Genre: Comedy

Director: Daniel Robbins



Tuesday, March 4 – 7:00 p.m. – Film Center, Waterville
Friday, March 7 – 5:00 p.m. – Portland Museum of Art

Audience Award Winner at the 2024 Tribeca Film Festival, *Bad Shabbos* is here to prove that even Shabbat can go haywire in this off-beat comedy. Directed by Daniel Robbins and co-written by Zack Weiner, this chaotic “one-night-in-New-York” story turns family dinner into a side-splitting disaster. When two couples — Abby and Benjamin, and David and Meg (freshly converted to Judaism)— gather for a traditional Shabbat dinner, things spiral faster than you can say “hamotzi” when an accidental death (or...murder?) derails the evening entirely, and Meg’s devoutly Catholic parents are due any moment to meet David’s very Jewish family. Before you know it, Shabbat becomes a comedy of biblical proportions.

Discussion with Rabbi Rachel Isaacs, March 4, Film Center, Waterville.

“An entertaining fast-paced comedy.” -Variety



JEWISH COMMUNITY ALLIANCE OF SOUTHERN MAINE

We're the hub of Jewish life in Southern Maine. As a combined Jewish Federation, Jewish Community Center and Jewish Family Services program, the JCA is here to be a resource for the entire Southern Maine community.

The JCA is proud to support the
Maine Jewish Film Festival



207.772.1959
WWW.MAINEJEWISH.ORG

Thelma

1 hr 38 min

United States

Genre: Action, Comedy

Director: Josh Margolin



Wednesday, March 5, 2:00 p.m. – Portland Museum of Art

Thelma is a poignant action-comedy that gives veteran actor June Squibb in her first leading role and features the final performance of trailblazing actor Richard Roundtree. Squibb, who did many of her own stunts in the film, plays Thelma Post, a feisty 93-year-old grandmother who gets conned by a phone scammer pretending to be her grandson, and sets out on a treacherous quest across Los Angeles, accompanied by an aging friend and his motorized scooter, to reclaim what was taken from her. Parker Posey, Clark Gregg, and Malcolm McDowell also star.

“Thelma is one of the year’s best films.”
– Salt Lake Film Review



Immersion Programs at the Language Exchange



*Promoting Understanding
one language at a time ...*

Serving the Portland Community

with a great variety of **Language Programs** since 1992!

www.immersionprograms.com

The Klezmer Project

1 hr 55 min Austria/Argentina **Genre:** Docu-Fiction, Musical Road
Director: Leandro Koch & Paloma Schachmann



Wednesday, Mar 5th, 5:00 p.m. – Portland Museum of Art

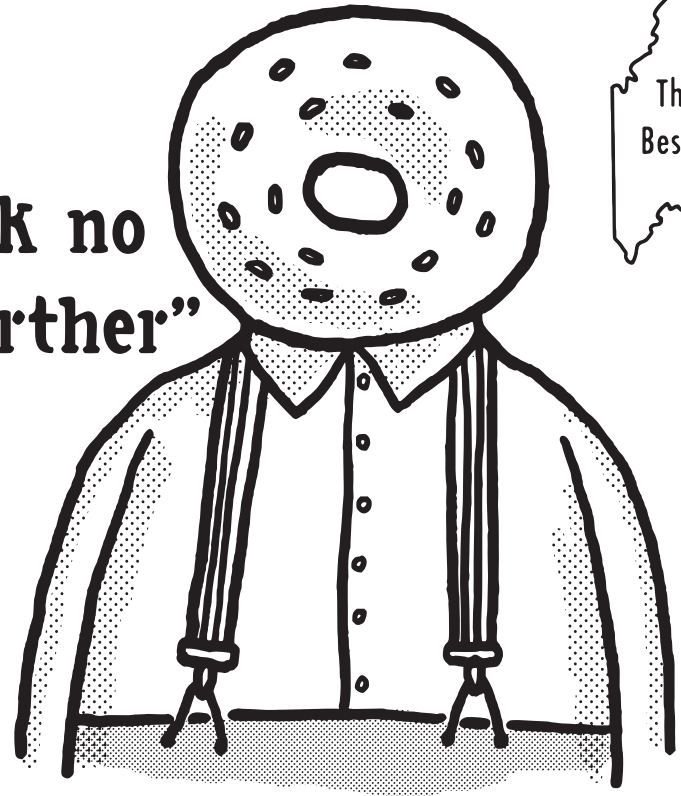
Argentinian cameraman Leandro makes a living from filming Jewish weddings. At one of his jobs, he falls in love with Paloma, the clarinetist of the Klezmer band. To seduce her he pretends to be shooting a documentary film about traditional Yiddish folk music. What Leandro does not know is that his “fake” film project will take him on an unscripted journey throughout Eastern Europe in search of the last remaining Klezmer melodies.

A fascinating investigation of Klezmer music and its place in Jewish culture.” – Screen International

LOX • WHITEFISH SALAD

GOOD RELIABLE BAGELS

“Look no
further”



OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK

Rose Foods

428 FOREST AVE. PORTLAND
207 835-0991 ROSEFOODS.ME

SOUP • LATKES • CHOPPED LIVER • GRIBENES

HOMEMADE GOLDEN BAGELS • PASTRAMI • CORNED BEEF • MATZO BALLS

The Other

1 hr 40 min

United States

Genre: Documentary

Director: Joy Sela



**Wednesday, March 5, 7:00 p.m. – Film Center, Waterville
Saturday, March 8, 2:00 p.m. – Portland Museum of Art**

Filmed from 2017-2024, including post October 7th and during the subsequent war, *The Other* focuses on Israeli & Palestinian peace-builders, anti-occupation activists, artists, academics, ex-fighters, bereaved parents and many more living the reality on the ground. Whether in non-violent co-resistance, peace-building, or shared community, we witness those who have only known each other through hate, bloodshed, inequality, and war, transcend beyond narratives & belief systems. They teach us that unlearning deep-seated conditioning is possible and that we can liberate ourselves from generational trauma, hatred and fear—no matter how ingrained and legitimate those fears are.

Pre-recorded introduction by director Joy Sela. Post-film discussion with Seeds of Peace.

“A powerful cinematic portrait of the seemingly hostile-to-solutions landscape in which Israeli-Palestinian relations unfold.” - San Francisco Examiner



 **BLACK TIE**
CATERING & EVENTS

PROUD SPONSOR OF THE MAINE JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL

LOCALLY SOURCED. CREATIVELY CONCEIVED.
ARTFULLY PRESENTED.

catering + event planning

207.761.6665 • blacktiemaine.com • info@blacktiemaine.com  



Spinoza

55 mins

Israel

Genre: Documentary

Director: David Ofek



Thursday, March 6th, 2:00 p.m. – Portland Museum of Art

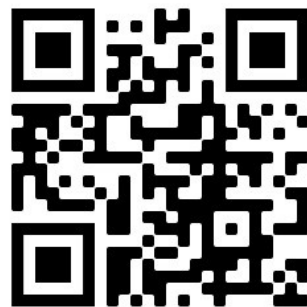
The excommunication of Baruch Spinoza, the Dutch Jewish philosopher who revolutionized modern thought, is a formative, mysterious event in the understanding of his work. Director David Ofek takes us on an intercontinental journey tracing six reasons for Spinoza’s excommunication. Between Amsterdam, the Hague, New York, Jerusalem, and Tel Aviv, he makes some surprising discoveries, and traces the figure of a man who continues to intrigue our culture with his ideas, which remain revolutionary, spiritual, and radical to this day. This is the 17th film in The Hebrews project.

Discussion with Bates Visiting Professor of Philosophy, Jonathan Cohen.

“I didn’t realize how relevant his work is to the reality of today, the struggle between religious conservatism and forces of free thought and liberalism...”
– Jerusalem Post



165 Waterman Drive
South Portland, Maine 04106
yankeeford.com



A Community Partner. Sponsoring Programs That Bring People Together For A Good Cause and Provide A Strong Sense Of Belonging. An Involved Community Allows Everyone To Shine As they Participate In and Support Local Community Programs.

Proud To Sponsor:



GREAT FILMS UNITE US

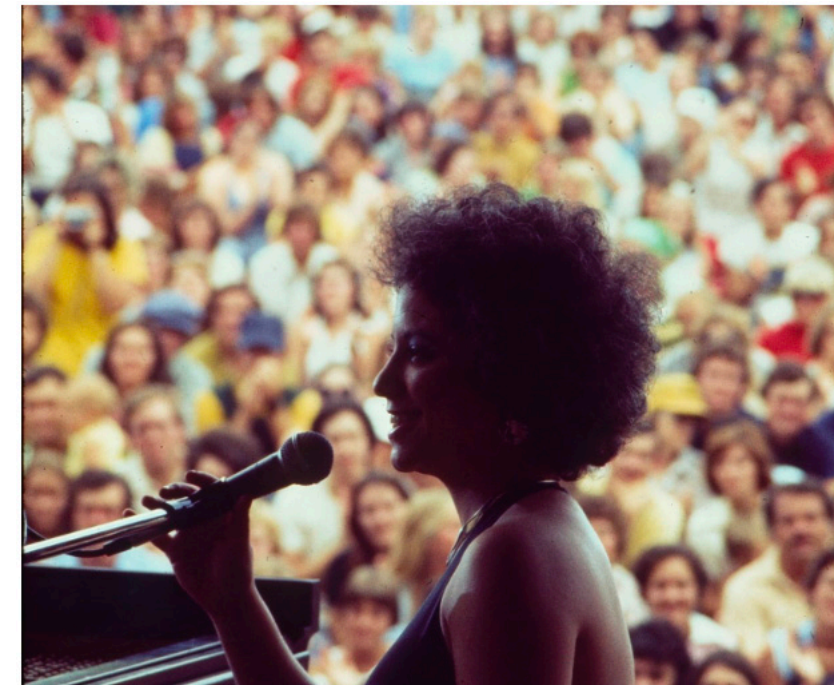
Janis Ian: Breaking Silence

1 hr 54 mins

United States

Genre: Documentary

Director: Varda Bar-kar



**Thursday, March 6 – 5:00 p.m. – Portland Museum of Art
Friday, March 7 – 7:00 p.m. – Eveningstar, Brunswick**

In the mid-60's, Janis Ian, a teenage Jewish singer-songwriter from New Jersey scores a hit ("Society's Child," 1966) about an interracial relationship. The song launches her illustrious career but also ignites controversy, and she plunges into an emotional tailspin—only to emerge from the ashes with an even bigger hit ("At Seventeen," 1975) about body shaming. For the next six decades, Janis overcame homophobia, record industry misogyny, and a life-threatening illness to produce an indelible body of work that continues to draw large audiences around the globe.

Special Talk and Q&A with Director Varda Bar-Ka after Portland screening.

"Breaking Silence chronicles the singer's epic life journey beginning with her Jewish childhood on a chicken farm in New Jersey, her youthful struggle with notoriety, her ascent to fame with the single "At Seventeen", and her release of the disruptive album "Breaking Silence" ... Unsung? Not bloody likely, and this film focuses on the extraordinary achievement of her talent, the legacy of joy that Janis Ian has created." - Richard Cotter, Sydney Arts Guide.



SUPPORTING MAINE'S CULTURAL LANDSCAPE.

East Brown Cow is a proud sponsor of the 2025 Maine Jewish Film Festival.

Temple Shalom Synagogue-Center congratulates MJFF on its 26th year of fine films



Call Me Dancer

1 hr 25 mins

India, UK, Israel, United States

Genre: Documentary

Director: Leslie Shampaine



Friday, March 7th, 2:00 p.m. – Portland Museum of Art

Manish is a young and talented street dancer from Mumbai who is struggling against his parents' insistence that he follow a traditional path because they are counting on their only son to support them. When he secretly attends an inner-city dance school and accidentally walks into a ballet class he meets Yehuda, a curmudgeonly 70-year-old Israeli teacher, and a hunger develops within him. Call Me Dancer is a story of hope, heartache, and hard work. Together, Manish and Yehuda transform each other's lives, searching to uncover who and what they are.

Pre-recorded introduction by Director/Producer, Leslie Shampaine.

“Touching... Lustrous imagery...the classic underdog story. Call Me Dancer reaches the heart through the archetypal quest of the film’s hero, and the charm of Manish Chauhan... Acts of stunning strength and agility with the joy of someone born to dance. He’s also beautiful...” – Matthew Carey, Deadline Hollywood.



The Bank of "YES!" (and so much more)

For more than 150 years, Machias Savings Bank has been moving Mainers and their businesses forward with the banking solutions they need to find their "yes!"

We're here to say "yes!" to all your hopes, goals, and dreams.



BERN STEIN SHUR

The Goldman Case

1 hr 56 min

France

Genre: Drama, Crime, History

Director: Cédric Kahn



Saturday, March 8, 5:00 p.m. – Portland Museum of Art

In 1975, Pierre Goldman (Cesar Award-winner Arieh Worthalter), a fiery and controversial figure of revolutionary left-wing activism, was put on trial in France. Accused of multiple crimes including two murders, Goldman proclaims his innocence. Considered to be the trial of the century, the Goldman case divided an entire country and reflects the political, ideological and racial tensions which marked the 1970s in France and Europe and still remain relevant today.

Discussion with Bates Whitehouse Professor of Psychology, Amy Douglas.

**“An electrifying courtroom drama.” – Alissa Wilkinson
New York Times Critics’ Pick**



Old Port Advisors

Est. 1994

Partners for a Secure Future

It's Right at Morong



WWW.MORONG.COM

US Rt. 1 Falmouth, ME 207-781-4020

No Name Restaurant

2 hours

Germany

Genre: Comedy

Director: Peter Keller, Stefan Sarazin



Sunday, March 9, 2:00 p.m. – Portland Museum of Art

Alexandria, Egypt. To save the synagogue of the once largest Jewish community in the world from being shut down, Ben, an ultra-Orthodox Brooklyn Jew visiting Jerusalem, is sent out to be the desperately needed tenth man for the ceremonies of Pesach. Having missed his plane and been kicked off the bus in the Sinai Desert, his last hope is Adel, a grumpy Bedouin looking for his camel. When their car breaks down, it becomes a matter of their very survival. Although rescued by the monks of St. Catherine, Ben is too sick to go on. It is the Bedouin disguised as Ben who is now rushing on towards Alexandria to save the Jewish community. Shot in Jerusalem, Haifa, Wadi Rum (Jordan), Palestine.

Screening will be followed by Closing Reception.

Winner, Building Bridges Jury Award | Atlanta Jewish Film Festival 2024