



### TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for all Portland and Lewiston screenings are available online through Brown Paper Tickets (visit [mjff.org](http://mjff.org)) or by phone 1-800-838-3006. Tickets will be sold at the door 30 minutes prior to start time subject to availability.

Tickets for screenings at Eveningstar Cinema, Brunswick and Railroad Square, Waterville will be available at those venues.

- \$10 Adults
- \$8 for seniors and students
- Opening Night: \$40
- Closing Night: \$18
- All festival pass: \$200
- Festival Six Pack \$50

Brown Paper Tickets charges a fee 99 Cents plus 3.5% (a.g. 35 cents for a \$10 ticket). This allows MJFF to sell tickets online.

### FESTIVAL LOCATIONS

#### PORTLAND

The Nickelodeon Cinemas  
1 Temple St.  
The Portland Museum of Art  
7 Congress Square  
The Community Television Network  
Studio, 516 Congress St.  
USM Talbot Hall, 85/88 Bedford St.  
Portland House of Music, 25 Temple St.

#### BRUNSWICK

Eveningstar Cinema, Tontine Mall  
149 Maine St.

#### LEWISTON

Bates College, Olin Arts Center  
75 Russell St.

#### WATERVILLE

Railroad Square Cinema  
17 Railroad Square



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  - JCL Foundation
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**MAINE JEWISH**  
**FILM FESTIVAL**  
MARCH 18-25 MJFF.ORG

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#### Production Designer



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# 2017 FILMS & EVENTS



**A Demonstration in the White City**  
 Documentary / Hebrew w/English ST / 48 min  
 10,000 asylum seekers from Eritrea and the Sudan and Israeli supporters gather for a demonstration. This documentary jewel captures the streets of Tel Aviv while providing invaluable insight into Israel's political and cultural history. Director Tal Haim Yoffe will speak. Shown with White Night.  
 3/19 12 noon Railroad Square, Waterville; 3/22 6PM CTN Studio



**A Grain of Truth**  
 Thriller / Polish w/English ST / 110 min  
 A noir whodunit. Prosecutor Teodor Szacki (Polish Academy Award-winning actor Robert Więckiewicz) is investigating the brutal murder of a well-known activist. As more murders occur, a wave of anti-Semitism explodes and he must solve the crimes while facing the hysteria of public opinion and the painful history of Polish-Jewish relations. \*Mature Content  
 3/19 11AM Eveningstar Cinema, Brunswick



**A Quiet Heart**  
 Drama / Starring: Ania Bukstein from Game of Thrones / Hebrew, Italian w/English ST / 92 min  
 A professional pianist seeks refuge from the pressures of the concert stage in an ultra-orthodox Jerusalem neighborhood. Rejecting pressure to conform to the religious lifestyle, she receives escalating anonymous threats. This film conveys an air of creeping unease that leads to a surprising resolution.  
 3/19 7PM Nickelodeon; 3/19 7:30PM Railroad Square, Waterville



**Bang! The Bert Berns Story**  
 Documentary / Feat. Van Morrison, Betty Harris, Keith Richards, Cissy Houston, narr. Steve Van Zandt / 94 min  
 Bert Berns was the writer and producer of such hits as Piece of My Heart, Hang on Sloopy, and Twist and Shout. He also launched the careers of Van Morrison, Neil Diamond, and many others. Bang! examines his life through interviews with music luminaries such as Paul McCartney, Ben E. King, and Ronald Isley, revelations

from friends and family, and a great score. Filmmakers Bob Sarles and Brett Berns will speak. Related concert by Betty Harris at the Portland House of Music.  
 3/23 6PM Nickelodeon



**Bamidbar (In the Wilderness)**  
 Drama Short / Dir: Onn Nir / Starring: Sabi Dorr, Shai Tamary, Nick Greene / 2014 Israel / Hebrew w/English ST / 18 min  
 Against the backdrop of the biblical Israeli desert, a war hero scarred by his experience, and his estranged daughter, are forced by unforeseeable circumstances to face important truths. Shown with Made Like a Gun; followed by a panel discussion.  
 3/19 3PM Nickelodeon



**Bar Bahar (In Between)**  
 Drama / Arabic w/English ST / 102 min  
 In the permissive atmosphere of Tel Aviv, three Palestinian millennial women navigate "in between" traditional norms and modernity. Ensemble acting, immersive cinematography and a pulsing soundtrack tell a new story of women in Israel. \*Mature content. Catherine Lee and Zainah Anwar will speak.  
 3/21 6PM Nickelodeon



**Blue Like Me: The Art of Siona Benjamin**  
 Documentary / English, Marathi w/English ST / 28 min  
 The recipient of a Fulbright scholarship, Siona Benjamin's work has been featured in The New York Times and Art in America. The film captures her transfixing artwork filled with jaw-dropping imagery painted in a riot of color. Siona Benjamin will speak. Shown with Hollow Land.  
 3/19 1:30 PM PMA



**Bogdan's Journey**  
 Documentary / Polish, Hebrew w/ English ST / 83 min  
 1946: Polish soldiers, police and civilians kill Jews returned from the Holocaust. The 70s: Bogdan Bialek A Polish Catholic psychologist and teacher, begins a mission to persuade Polish citizens to confront their anti-Semitism and its consequences.  
 Bogdan Bialek and the directors will be in attendance at a special preview on March 15.  
 3/15 7PM CTN Studio (preview); 3/23 3PM Nickelodeon



**Dimona Twist**  
 Documentary / Hebrew w/English ST / 70 min  
 Seven young women from different backgrounds arrive as immigrants in Dimona, Israel in the '50s and '60s. Their life stories are all utterly different yet painfully the same—the pains of immigration, adjusting, and their

determined attempts to live a rich life. An unsentimental and moving story about the building of Israel. Shown with Joe's Violin.  
 3/20 7PM CTN Studio



**Doing Jewish: A Story From Ghana**  
 Documentary / English / 80 min  
 Is there a difference between "being Jewish" and "doing Jewish"? How did Jewish customs and rituals find their way to Ghana? What binds the Jewish people around the world? The film answers some questions and raises others in a heartwarming and thought-provoking way. City Council member Pious Ali will speak.  
 3/25 12 Noon PMA



**Flory's Flame**  
 Documentary / English / 60 min  
 90-year-old Flory Jagoda (she wrote "Ocho Candelikas") is showcased in her mission to preserve and share her Ladino musical heritage. The history of Sephardic music is woven with the story of Flory's family, her move to the U.S. and her extraordinary concert at the Library of Congress. Shown with Joe's Violin.  
 3/21 1PM Nickelodeon



**For the Love of Spock**  
 Documentary / 105 minutes  
 Spock is one of film and television's most iconic characters. In this intimate and personal documentary, Leonard's son Adam explores the creation, evolution, and impact of Mr. Spock. A revealing portrait of a timeless character and an extraordinary man.  
 3/19 7:30PM CTN Studio



**Freedom to Marry**  
 Documentary / 2016 / English / 86 min  
 This surprisingly suspenseful look at the struggle for marriage equality will have you on the edge of your seat as you follow attorney Mary Bonauto of GLAD's legal battle to its historic and inspirational triumph. An inspiring, exhilarating look at how social change happens.  
 Danielle Conway, Dean of the University of Maine Law School and Mary Bonauto will speak.  
 3/20 6PM Nickelodeon



**Freedom Runners**  
 Documentary / Hebrew w/English ST / 50 min  
 A Jewish teacher in Tel Aviv starts a running club for his students, the sons and daughters of African asylum seekers. Their talent and commitment bring them to national races but they do not get the recognition they deserve. The students speak of the helpless feeling of being strangers in a strange land with an unrehearsed eloquence. Free showing but tickets required.  
 3/19 1PM USM Talbot Hall



**Harold and Lillian**  
 Documentary / Feat: Lillian Michelson, Harold Michelson, Danny DeVito, Mel Brooks, Francis Ford Coppola / English / 94 min  
 A love story of two of Hollywood's greatest unsung heroes. Their work as storyboard artist and film researcher was responsible for the production design of The Birds, The Graduate, The Ten Commandments and Fiddler on the Roof. A charming story and fascinating education in filmmaking. Free showing but tickets required.  
 3/23 1PM PMA



**Hollow Land**  
 Animation/Drama / Denmark-France-Canada / No language / 14 minutes  
 Gorgeous animated distillation of the refugee experience. Words are unnecessary. Shown with Blue Like Me.  
 3/19 1:30PM PMA



**Joe's Violin**  
 Documentary / English / 24 min  
 A 91-year-old Holocaust survivor donates the violin he has played for 70 years to a local instrument drive. A thirteen year old child of immigrants living in the Bronx receives the violin. When they meet, she plays for him and two strangers are powerfully connected through the love of music. Nominated for an Academy Award. Shown with Dimona Twist and Flory's Flame.  
 3/20 7PM CTN Studio; 3/21 1PM Nickelodeon



**The Last Laugh**  
 Documentary / Starring: Mel Brooks, Sarah Silverman, Louis CK, Chris Rock, Rob Reiner and others / English / 85 min  
 Is it ever acceptable to make jokes about the Holocaust? When is it "too soon" after a tragedy? This lively film delves deep into pop-culture to find out where or even whether to draw those lines.  
 3/18 7:30PM Railroad Square, Waterville; 3/24 6:30PM CTN Studio



**The Last Mentsch**  
 Drama / Starring: Mario Adorf ( German Academy Award winner) / German, Yiddish, Hebrew, Hungarian w/ English ST / 93 min  
 A poignant and funny story of denial and destiny. Marcus Schwarz escaped Auschwitz and spent a lifetime concealing his heritage. But when the rabbis demand proof that he's really Jewish before he can purchase a cemetery plot, he enlists the help of a chain-smoking German Turk with a troubled history. The unlikely duo set out on a trip with some unexpected twists.  
 3/22 11:30AM PMA



**Made Like A Gun**  
 Documentary / Hebrew w/English ST / 56 min  
 This film is about the price paid by a society in perpetual combat. How Israeli men cope with PTSD and emotional turmoil from devastating experiences, is revealed with a tenderness and vulnerability that usually remains hidden. Followed by a panel discussion. Shown with Bamidbar.  
 3/19 3PM Nickelodeon



**Moos**  
 Romantic Comedy / Dutch w/English ST/ 91 min  
 Endearing, smart and unforgettable, Moos keeps you smiling from the opening scene to the closing credits. Uncomfortably unmarried and without a clear career

path, Moos pursues her dream of acting. Will she make it, or will lies, love affairs and a meddling family derail her?  
 3/19 4PM Bates College; 3/19 5PM Eveningstar, Brunswick; 3/24 6PM PMA



**My Hero Brother**  
 Documentary / Hebrew w/English ST / 78 min  
 Young Israelis with Down syndrome embark on a trek through the Himalayas with their "normal" sisters and brothers. Exquisite cinematography of the Himalayas is interspersed with the complexities of growing up in a family with a Down syndrome family member. Followed by a panel discussion. Free showing but tickets required.  
 3/22 1:30PM PMA



**Operation Wedding**  
 Documentary / Russian w/English ST / 62 min  
 Leningrad, 1970: Under the guise of attending a wedding, young Jewish dissidents plot to hijack an empty plane and escape the USSR. Caught by the KGB, they are tried for treason and sentenced to the gulag; two death sentences are commuted following world outrage. 45 years later, the filmmaker retraces the group's journey. An inspiring story of freedom and cracking the Iron Curtain. Shown with Pur.  
 3/21 7PM CTN Studio



**Peter the Third**  
 Comedy / Hebrew w/English ST / 81 min  
 Peter's a 65-year-old actor, scheming to come up with a plan that will enable him to receive a government pension. Though endearing relationships with his café buddies and a young waitress, Peter finds a way to fulfill everyone's dreams. A comedy that will leave you smiling for days. Followed by Closing Night Reception.  
 3/25 6:30PM PMA



**Pur**  
 Documentary Short / Russian, Hebrew w/English ST / 14 min  
 Rare home movies from Soviet dissidents now in Israel recall the time when they subversively used the Purim story to educate and inspire Soviet Jewish youth on forbidden Jewish culture. Shown with Operation Wedding.  
 3/21 7PM CTN Studio



**Raise the Roof**  
 Documentary / English / 85 min  
 During WWII the Nazis destroyed a forest of wooden synagogues—considered to be among the most remarkable wooden structures ever built. The film follows a team of over 300 artisans and students as they attempt to rebuild the glorious Gwoździec synagogue using only traditional tools, methods and materials. Project participant Krista Lima will speak.  
 3/19 1:30 PM Bates College; 3/24 1PM PMA



**Summer Solstice**  
 Drama / Polish, German w/English ST / 100 min  
 Subtly contrasted but powerfully connected scenes weave together to tell the story of adolescents struggling to survive in late WWII Poland under German occupation. Gorgeous cinematography and an expert cast enhance this nuanced tale, climaxing in a shocking loss of innocence that reveals universal truths about youth, violence and war.  
 3/21 4PM Nickelodeon



**White Night**  
 Documentary / Arabic, Hebrew w/English subtitles / 47 min  
 Every night Arab domestic laborers living in the Occupied Territories risk their lives sneaking through the security barrier to clean houses in Jerusalem. These extraordinary, determined, strong, fearless women maneuver their lives between men who forbid them to work and Israeli soldiers who pursue them. Shown with A Demonstration in the White City.  
 3/19 12 Noon Railroad Square, Waterville; 3/22 6PM CTN Studio



**Who's Gonna Love Me Now**  
 Documentary / Hebrew, English w/English ST / 86 min  
 Saar is a 40-year-old Israeli Jew and veteran paratrooper living in London. He grew up on an Orthodox kibbutz in Israel, but after coming out to his family, moved away to

ensure emotional safety. Years later, after learning he's HIV positive, he is driven to reconnect with his homeland and family. Saar finds comfort with the London Gay Men's Chorus, who provides the film's glorious soundtrack. Portland Gay Men's Chorus will sing.  
 3/23 CTN Studio 6pm



**The Women's Balcony**  
 Comedy/Drama / Hebrew w/English ST / 96 minutes  
 The collapse of a women's balcony in a synagogue in Jerusalem sets off a war between the sexes when an ultra-Orthodox Rabbi decides to replace it with a small room behind bars. A funny and endearing film that recognizes complex relationships and challenges perceptions of women's and men's roles. Portland screening on 3/18 preceded by Opening Night Reception.  
 3/18 7PM Nickelodeon; 3/18 7PM Eveningstar, Brunswick; 3/19 2:45 Railroad Square, Waterville; 3/22 1:30PM Nickelodeon

## SHORTS PROGRAM

**SHORTS PROGRAM**  
 A Little Bit of This...A Little Bit of That...Short Film Program. 103 min

Animation and a unique family vacation, a single mother with a shocking profession, a 3rd generation seltzer man, an Orthodox women's rock band and so much more; these nine thematically and technically diverse short films are sometimes gut wrenching, often heart-warming and always eye opening.

3/22 6PM Nickelodeon

# MAINE JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL

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