The National Center for Jewish Film
and
Brandeis University
in cooperation with
The Consulate General of Israel to New England
present

9TH ANNUAL FILM FESTIVAL

JEWISHFILM.2006: FROM PLAZA DE MAYO TO ZION SQUARE
APRIL 22 – 30, 2006

Edie and Lew Wasserman Cinematheque, Sachar International Center
Brandeis University, Waltham MA

Jewishfilm.2006 features eight Boston-area premieres, two American premieres, one world premiere, and a special tribute to award-winning German filmmaker Michael Verhoeven, who will be this year¹s special visiting guest. Women filmmakers take center stage at Jewishfilm.2006, with Israeli women—Zippi Brand Frank, Anat Zuria, Dalia Hager and Vidi Bilu—helming three films about Israeli women, and Mari Cantu, Mira Jedwabnik Van Doren, Judy Gelles and Marianne Bernstein premiering their new films at this year¹s festival. Several filmmakers , including Mira Jedwabnik Van Doren, Judy Gelles, Marianne Bernstein, Jorge Gurvich, Alan Rosenthal, Zippi Brand Frank and Michael Verhoeven will be present to discuss their work. Other screenings will feature discussions led by Brandeis University faculty and local experts.

American Premiere
Saturday, April 22, 8:15 pm
Next Year in…Argentina (El Año Que Viene en…Argentina)
Israel, 2005, 62 minutes, Spanish with English subtitles
Directors: Jorge Gurvich and Shlomo Slutzky

Filmmaker Jorge Gurvich will be present

In this new documentary filmmaker Gurvich and journalist Slutzky, who met in Buenos Aires in the 1970's before both men immigrated to Israel, talk with several of their friends over a period of six years to examine their decisions to remain in Argentina or emigrate to Israel. The Argentinean Jews struggle with economic and emotional issues which are often very painful. The film reveals the difficulties common to many immigrants, including the filmmakers themselves, especially those Jews in the diaspora who struggle to find a safe and sustaining place for themselves and their families.

Discussant: Alberto Limonic, Chairman of the Argentinean Jewish Relief Campaign
Sponsors: Argentinean Jewish Relief Committee and the Boston Latino International Film Festival

Preceded by
So We Said Goodbye
Israel, 1991, 26 minutes, Hebrew and Yiddish with English subtitles
Director: Jorge Gurvich

In this short fictional film, a family moving to Spain bids goodbye to their elderly parents. The farewell evokes strong memories for the grandfather as he remembers when, as a boy, he was sent away by his mother on the eve of the Holocaust. Voted Best Short Film at the Jerusalem Film Festival, "This beautiful short film by the outstanding Israeli photographer Jorge Gurvich moved me to tears. Do not miss it!" - Nacham Ingbar, *Yediot Aharonot*

Boston Premiere
Sunday, April 23, 2:00 pm
Stalin's Last Purge
Israel, 2005, 55 minutes, English
Director: Alan Rosenthal

Filmmaker Alan Rosenthal and Joshua Rubenstein, author of *Stalin's Secret Pogrom*, will be present

An investigation into the details of Stalin's increasing paranoia and the murderous plots of his final years, this film is also the first to examine Stalin's actions from the point of view of Jewish cultural figures all of whom had enthusiastically supported the Soviet war effort only to be purged in the immediate post-war period. Much of the material used in this new documentary has only recently become available after the opening of formerly closed Stalin-era archives.

Sponsors: Action for Post-Soviet Jewry and Center for German and European Studies

Boston Premiere
Sunday, April 23, 4:00 pm
You're in the Army Now (Yerukot)
Israel, 2003, 90 minutes, Hebrew with English subtitles
Creator and Director: Zippi Brand Frank

Filmmaker and Neiman Fellow Zippi Brand Frank will be present

This fast paced popular television series about women recruits captures this formative experience for most Israeli women with poignancy and humor. The seriousness of the army's mission is always present, even when the trainees are too immersed in their fears, foibles, and friendships to understand the larger picture.

Sponsors: Hebrew and Arabic Languages Program, and The Jacob and Libby Goodman Institute for the Study of Zionism and Israel, Brandeis University

Boston Premiere
Sunday, April 23, 7:00 pm
Rosehill
Hungary/Germany, 2004, 94 minutes, Hungarian with English subtitles
Director: Mari Cantu
Cast: Péter Andorai, Erika Marozsán

In Cantu's loosely autobiographical feature film two children, ages ten and six, witness the unfolding of the 1956 Hungarian Revolution from the seclusion of their family's idyllic Budapest villa. One day a letter arrives from Israel for their Jewish father, a high-ranking official in the Rákosi regime, and the children, vaguely suspecting trouble, conceal it, putting their father in a complicated and ultimately dangerous position.

Discussant: Jerzy Mazur, Doctoral Candidate, Brandeis University
Sponsor: Center for German and European Studies

Boston Premiere
Wednesday. April 26, 7:00 pm
Sentenced to Marriage (Mekudeshet)
Israel, 2004, 65 minutes, Hebrew with English subtitles
Director: Anat Zuria

In Israel, where divorce is adjudicated according to archaic orthodox Jewish law, thousands of Jewish women live in limbo while they wait for the Rabbinic court to grant them a "get," a Jewish divorce. Zuria's documentary, which follows two women caught in this demoralizing legal labyrinth, exposes the Kafkaesque process of divorce for women in Israel. The film was awarded Best Documentary at the 2004 Jerusalem Film and a Silver Wolf nomination at the International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam.

Discussants: Producer Sigal Landesberg, Professor Sylvia Barak Fishman, and Lisa Fishbayne, WSRC Scholar, Brandeis University
Sponsor: Hadassah-Brandeis Institute, Brandeis University

Boston Premiere
Thursday, April 27, 7:00 pm
From Philadelphia to the Front
USA, 2005, 37 minutes
Directors: Judy Gelles and Marianne Bernstein

Filmmakers Judy Gelles and Marianne Bernstein will be present

This new documentary features six Jewish Philadelphians from the Greatest Generation discussing their experiences in the US Armed Forces during World War II. "*From Philadelphia to the Front* is a real rarity, a film that one leaves wishing it were at least an hour longer. But it's near perfect as it is." -- George Robinson, *The Jewish Week*

Preceded by
Boston Premiere
The Holocaust Tourist: Whatever Happened To Never Again?
UK, 2005, 10 minutes
Director: Jes Benstock

A wry documentary about how Holocaust tourism distorts history. A whistlestop tour from Auschwitz hot-dogs to Krakow's kitsch Judaica.

Sponsors: BOLLI, Anti-Defamation League New England Region, Hans and Mavis Lopater, and Bernard and Rhoda Sarnat Center for the Study of Anti-Jewishness, Brandeis University

Saturday, April 29, 8:15 pm
The White Rose
West Germany, 1982, 108 minutes, German with English subtitles
Director: Michael Verhoeven
Cast: Lena Stolze, Wulf Kessler, Oliver Siebert

Filmmaker Michael Verhoeven will be present

Lena Stolze (*The Nasty Girl*) stars in this award-winning feature film based on the true story of five German students and their professor who formed the Munich-based secret society dedicated to protesting the Nazi regime. The political controversy in Germany surrounding Verhoeven's film directly caused the German government to officially invalidate the Nazi "People's Court" system that sentenced the White Rose group to death.

Sponsors: Center for German and European Studies, Department of Near Eastern and Judaic Studies, and Brandeis Student Holocaust Remembrance Committee

World Premiere
Sunday, April 30, 2:00 pm
The World Was Ours: The Jewish Legacy of Vilna
USA, 2006, 60 minutes
Director: Mira Jedwabnik Van Doren
Narrator: Mandy Patinkin

Filmmaker Mira Jedwabnik Van Doren will be present

The rich and exciting history of the Jews of Vilna is chronicled with wonderful historical material and poignant first-hand accounts of the vibrancy of Jewish life in this once thriving community. Produced with careful attention to detail and historical accuracy, this visual record of the city known as the “Jerusalem of Lithuania” is a fitting tribute to the

60,000 individuals who were murdered during World War II, destroying the people but not the legacy of their cultural heritage.

Sponsor: Boston Center for Jewish Heritage at The Vilna Shul

American Premiere
Sunday, April 30, 4:00 pm
The Unknown Soldier (Der Unbekannte Soldat)
Germany, 2006, 97 minutes, German with English subtitles
Director: Michael Verhoeven

Director Michael Verhoeven will be present

Inspired by the watershed exhibition *The Wehrmacht Exhibition*—which included photos of Wehrmacht officers killing civilians, directly challenging the enduring image of the "morally proper" German soldier—Verhoeven investigates evidence of the participation of German forces in Nazi crimes in this new documentary.

Sponsors: American Jewish Committee, Boston, Tauber Institute for the Study of European Jewry, and Center for German and European Studies

Boston Premiere
Sunday, April 30, 7:00 pm
Close to Home
Israel, 2005, 90 minutes, Hebrew with English subtitles
Directors: Dalia Hager and Vidi Bilu
Cast: Smadar Sayar, Naama Schendar, Irit Suki, Katia Zimbris

In this new Israeli feature film two 18-year-old Israeli women, Smadar and Mirit, find themselves thrown together while serving their compulsory military service. Assigned to detain and check the identity papers of Palestinians, the young women develop a friendship in this immediate and contemporary examination of the Israeli occupation.

Discussant: Dr. Lawrence Lowenthal, Director of American Jewish Committee, Boston
Sponsors: Hebrew and Arabic Languages Program and American Jewish Committee, Boston

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Michael Verhoeven
Honor and Retrospective

The Center for German and European Studies at Brandeis University is proud to present its first Conscience and Courage Award to German filmmaker Michael Verhoeven, on Sunday, April 30, 2006 at 4:00 pm.

After training as a physician and working as an actor, Michael Verhoeven established his own film production company in 1965. The director of a host of commercial film and television projects, Verhoeven has received wide acclaim for the groundbreaking feature films he has written, produced, and directed, particularly those which grapple directly and unwaveringly with questions of German conduct during WWII and the Holocaust. Despite pressure from the West German government, Verhoeven consistently challenged the culture of silence, indifference, and denial that characterized much of Germany in the first decades after WWII. In ***The White Rose*** (1982), ***The Nasty Girl*** (1989), and ***My Mother's Courage*** (1995), he gives us courageous and outspoken women, whose stands against injustice put them at great personal risk. Verhoeven continues to ask the most difficult questions in ***The Unknown Soldier*** (2006), a documentary that wrestles with evidence of the Germany army's participation in Nazi crimes.

This retrospective is co-presented by the National Center for Jewish Film, the Center for German and European Studies at Brandeis University, the Goethe-Institut Boston, and the Harvard Film Archive.

At
Goethe-Institut Boston
170 Beacon Street, Boston, MA
(617) 262-6050, ext. 13
www.goethe.de/boston

Boston Premiere **Free and open to the public**
Friday, April 28, 6:00 pm
The Verhoevens
Germany, 2003, 75 minutes, German with English subtitles
Director: Felix Moeller

Filmmaker Michael Verhoeven will be present

Beginning with patriarch Paul Verhoeven, three generations of the Verhoeven family have worked behind as well as in front of the camera, producing some of Germany's finest films. This portrait of Michael Verhoeven, his wife, actress Senta Berger, and their children is both a celebration of this remarkable family and a chronicle of the history of German film.

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At
Harvard Film Archive
24 Quincy Street, Cambridge MA
617.495.4700
www.harvardfilmarchive.org

Friday, May 5, 7:00 pm & Saturday, May 6, 9:00 pm
The Nasty Girl
West Germany, 1989, 94 minutes, German with English subtitles
Director: Michael Verhoeven

When a Bavarian schoolgirl researches the history of her town, she discovers some nasty secrets about her forefathers and their complicity with the Nazis.

Friday, May 5, 9:00 pm & Monday, May 8, 9:00 pm
The White Rose

Saturday, May 6, 7:00 pm & Tuesday, May 9, 9:15 pm
My Mother's Courage
Germany/UK/Austria/Ireland, 1995, 89 minutes, German with English subtitles
Director: Michael Verhoeven

An adaptation of George Tabori's story depicting the day in 1944 when his mother was plucked from her everyday life and thrown into the surreal nightmare of mass deportation.

Presented by
The National Center for Jewish Film
and
Brandeis University's
Center for German and European Studies
Tauber Institute for the Study of European Jewry
Hadassah-Brandeis Institute
Edie and Lew Wasserman Fund
Department of Near Eastern and Judaic Studies
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Student Holocaust Remembrance Committee

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Anti-Defamation League New England Region
Argentinean Jewish Relief Committee
Boston Center for Jewish Heritage at The Vilna Shul
Boston Latino International Film Festival
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Tickets: $8; seniors, students, and BOLLI: $6; group sales of twenty or more: $5
Festival passes: $60; senior festival passes: $50
Brandeis students and faculty with ID: free

All programs subject to change
No reserved seating
Facilities are handicapped and hearing accessible
Free parking

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www.jewishfilm.org

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