

November 6, 7 & 11th 2018

The Rabbi Marc Jagoliner Jewish Experience Series

ARTS AND CULTURE: SHAPING THE FUTURE, REFLECTING THE PAST

Part of the Annual Roving Eye International Film Festival

Three events in November that focus on the Jewish experience through short films, documentary, media and a guest speaker. Presented in partnership with Flickers' Rhode Island International Film Festival, the Helene and Bertram Bernhardt Foundation, the RWU School of Humanities, Arts and Education, Dean Cynthia Scheinberg, RWU Department of Communication, Graphic Design and Web Development, Dr. Roxanne O'Connell, Department Chair, RWU Hillel, and the Spiritual Life Office.



These events are free and open to the general public.

Tuesday, November 6, 2018

6:00 p.m.

HOW WE SEE OURSELVES...

Documentary and Narrative Film Screenings with Director's Discussion

Location: Mary Tefft White Cultural Center, RWU Library

THE MUSEUM OF LOST THINGS

Directed by: Gregory Cioffi | 22 min. USA, 2017

Synopsis

The Museum of Lost Things concerns a writer in his late 40s who, while sitting in an all-night diner, tells to an affable waitress the story of his stumbling upon a strange museum on an obscure street in downtown Manhattan. His story takes us through the labyrinths of the museum, where, with the help of a nonchalant museum guard, he encounters exhibition rooms seemingly dedicated to him alone, each one representing a piece of the man's lost past. Some rooms are filled with objects, such as his lost umbrellas or his lost books, and still others contain aspects of his life that he hardly remembers. In this absurdist mystery, the museum visitor discovers rooms of lost hope, of lost patience, of lost illusions, and is always surprised by what he finds. But will he find what he's looking for? Will he recapture his past? Or is the museum only a fantasy, one of the writer's own inventions?

A SOLDIER'S DREAM: THE MILT FELDMAN STORY

Directed by: Eduardo Montes-Bradley | 50 min. Belgium, Germany, USA, 2018

Synopsis

Born in 1924 to hard working immigrants from Russia, His parents had a candy store in Brooklyn and he vividly remembers the social transformations that followed the Great Depression, a time in which the quite Jewish neighborhood where he grew up, bore witness to the Nazi youth

parading swastikas alongside the Stars and Stripes. By 1937, the echoes of Fascism in Europe were an open invitation for thousands to gather at Madison Square Garden where thousands of Hitler sympathizers cheered the speech of rightwing Nationalists.

The fall of 1944 will find Milt amongst the troops of the 106th Infantry Division, on board the HMS Queen Elizabeth on his way to Europe. He was ready to do his part of the American deal, just as his father Jack and done before him in some of the major battles of World War I. Milt's was going to be an easy ride, after all most of France and Belgium had already been liberated and it was a matter of time before the Third Reich would collapse.

However, on the morning of December 16th Hitler launched a massive offense in the Western Front in what came to be known as The Battle of the Bulge. Private Milton Feldman was capture a few days, then marched and shipped by train on a boxcar to Stalag IV-B, a POW camp deep into German territory.

Now, the elderly gentleman, the veteran of The Bulge, approaching 94, becomes the subject of "Milt Feldman: A Soldier's Dream", a documentary by Eduardo Montes-Bradley.

Wednesday, November 7, 2018

6:00 p.m.

MEMORIES NEVER DIE

Documentary and Narrative Film Screenings with Director's Discussion

Location: Global Heritage Hall, 01

STAMM

Directed by: Jacob Grodnik | 10 min. USA, 2017

Synopsis

In the hours preparing for America's first offensive in WWI, a young American soldier leaves his forward post momentarily. Upon returning, he finds his fellow marine missing and is met with German gunfire. He narrowly escapes, only to trip into a foxhole with a German soldier. They struggle for their lives. The American sees that the German wears a Star of David around his neck. His last chance at survival is to prove to the German that he himself is also Jewish, in the hopes that one loyalty will outweigh the other. The two young men, in broken English and half-comprehended German connect; describing their homelands, trying to communicate what it's like to be a Jew in America and Germany.

'Stamm' is German for tribe. The film aims to illustrate that we are all of the same tribe, regardless of the arbitrary boundaries of country; there is only one tribe, 'the human tribe.' Over 100,000 Jews fought for Germany in World War I, and this is the story of one, whose loyalties are challenged and tested.

A THOUSAND KISSES

Directed by: Richard Goldgewicht | 17 min. USA, Germany, 2018 (animation)

Synopsis

Inspired by the actual correspondence recovered by the couple's grandsons 80 years later in São Paulo, A Thousand Kisses presents a peculiar love story tainted by the harsh historical context of its time, with a light appeal of irony and real-life poetry.

ALONE IN KLEZMER

Directed by: Kenneth O'Brien-Llontop | 11 min. USA, 2018

Synopsis

A book with a marked sheet is what Gretel finds in an old bookstore in Miami. The intimate

memory of a past of misery in another country is mixed with the history of the Nobel Prize for Literature Isaac Bashevis Singer in a film that is an essay on exile, literature, and those daily gestures that are shown as beautiful revelations.

FOOTSTEPS OF MY FATHER

Directed by: Paul Allman | 38 min. Belgium, Germany, USA, 2018

Synopsis

This act of bravery would have been forgotten and lost to history, had it not been for the rediscovery of Edmonds' private journals, by his son, and a chance encounter with one of the surviving POWs.

Chris Edmonds set out to locate the survivors, and discover the truth about his dad during his time as a P.O.W.

Roddie's story is a testament to how a simple commitment to fairness and equality can make a huge difference in the world.

Sunday, November 11, 2018

2:00 p.m.

THE STORIES WE TELL. THE STORIES WE SHARE

Documentary and Narrative Film Screenings with Director's Discussion

Location: Global Heritage Hall, 01

THE VISITOR

Directed by: Justin Olstein | 10 min. Australia, 2018

Synopsis

In present-day Melbourne, just after midnight, Naomi is awakened by a frantic young woman on the run. Naomi grapples with a situation that defies reality and, as the night unfolds, she must decide how far she can go to protect her visitor from rapidly encroaching danger.

VALENTINO AND THE PRODIGY

Directed by: Matt Anderson | 20 min. USA, 2018

Synopsis

A washed-up pianist is hired to train a young piano prodigy who is suffering from stage fright after the death of his father

AHARON'S CHILDHOOD

Directed by: Arnaud Sauli | 66 min. Israel, France, 2018

Synopsis

Aharon's Childhood (76') main character is the late great Israeli writer Aharon Appelfeld. The film explores in depth Appelfeld's writing process in his study and his relationship to a childhood under the shadow of tragedy. Appelfeld talks freely on love, women, Jewishness, Israël and his experience of being an eternal refugee with his French translator Valerie Zenatti. She came to his home to receive his last manuscript, and beyond that his artistic testament. The film has a poetic approach to his literary work travelling in time and space, from carpathian hills to Jerusalem, from 1941 to the present in a Jerusalem café.

Aharon Appelfeld is a survivor, he was until 2018 one of the last writer who survived the Holocaust. His writing elicits breath from a life doomed to death. Born in Ukraine in 1932, he escaped as a child and survived in a forest. Since, cultivating a deep sense of being alive, he is trying to retrieve the voices and faces of the ones who didn't survive.

Aharon's Childhood is a love story. Love is embodied in language, in writing, in a relationship eyeing a past and present world. She seizes his words, transmits them in French as an accomplishment of « being simultaneously writer and reader. » He looks at her, wandering what heritage would remain of him in this world.

Reception Follows at 3:45 p.m.

4:15 p.m.

EVA

Directed by: Ted Green & Mika Brown | 118 min. Germany, Israel, Poland, Romania, USA, United Kingdom, 2018

Synopsis

As a 10-year-old 'Mengele Twin,' Eva Kor suffered the worst of the Holocaust: being experimented on by the Auschwitz 'Angel of Death.' At 50, she launched the biggest international manhunt in history. Now 84, she urgently circles the globe in failing health to promote the controversial lesson her journey has taught: healing through forgiveness. "Eva" tells the full, unvarnished story of this historic figure for the first time. Narrated by Hollywood icon Ed Asner, it features spectacular new footage from Auschwitz, from the Transylvanian hamlet from which Eva's family was carted off to slaughter, and on a boat off Israel where she first tasted freedom. Interviews include Holocaust experts, celebrities she's moved (Elliott Gould, Wolf Blitzer, Ray Allen), fellow survivors she's enraged, and myriad young people whose lives she's changed - in many cases saved. Eva Kor has emerged as a worldwide spokeswoman for peace — a recent BuzzFeed video has 187 million views — and 'Eva' will be her legacy.

The film's co-director, **Ted Green**, will be available for a Q&A following the screening.

Following the screening:

Join us for a conversation with the family of the late **Rabbi Marc Jagolinzer** after whom our November programming is dedicated. Hosted by the **Rev. Nancy J. Soukup**, RWU Multifaith Minister.

For more information, contact the Spiritual Life Program at Roger Williams University, email nsoukup@rwu.edu. Directions to Roger Williams University can be found at www.rwu.edu