

2024 Jewish Film Festival

By Pat Johnson

Expect to be fascinated with a tale of survival in Nazi-controlled Poland; delighted with a comedy of unlikely friendship and get a glimpse into modern day Jewish morés during the Tenth annual Jewish Federation of Ocean County Film Festival, beginning Sept. 8, 2024.

Sharron Greenberg from the JFOC film festival said, previously, “There wasn’t a way to be able to see these films. The purpose is to bring the community together and to invite others in. We try to pick films from each genre: comedy, documentary, drama - that highlights different aspects of Jewish life.” Despite some hardships this year, Greenburg said she is pleased with the films they present.

Starting Sunday, Sept. 8 at 5 p.m. at the Marquee Theatre in Toms River and again at 7 p.m. at the Jewish Community Center on Long Beach Island is the film “Less Than Kosher.” This comedy is described as a Jewish Electro-pop musical. A twenty-year-old singer named Viv seems fated for stardom but ten years later, she is living in her mother's basement. Despite being ‘barely Jewish’ she agrees to accept a job as a Cantor at her family synagogue.

Sunday, Sept. 15 at 5 p.m. in Toms River, view “The Boy in the Woods.” This true story of Max Smart tells how in 1934, as an 11-year-old, he escapes the Nazis in Eastern Poland. Max finds some refuge with a Christian peasant, Jasko, who hides him until the ‘Jew hunters’ start to investigate. Jasko sends Max away to live in the woods where he learns to survive for two years.

A film shown virtually to ticket-holders between Sept. 9 and 12 is documentary-style, “Xueta Island.” Dani Rotstein is an American Jew who moves to the Balearic island of Majorca and becomes fascinated with a unique group of families descended from Inquisition-era Jews. Though practicing Catholics, the Xuetas were discriminated against. Rotstein works as a social activist and filmmaker rebuilding community around their unique history.

The movie that won eleven Israeli Academy Awards including best director is “The Monkey House” available virtually Sept. 16 through the 19. A failing novelist seeks an assistant and interviews qualified applicants but settles on a shapely, fast talking young woman whose single distinction is the sheer amount of lies and falsehoods in her resume. Will she help resurrect his struggling career?

The powerful documentary “Here Lived” subtitled “The Stolpersteine Story” is at the Marquee Theatre Sept. 22 at noon. In 1992, artist Gunter Demnig initiated the Stolpersteine project, to make bronze tablets etched with the names of the Jews, and others killed or victimized by the Nazis. The stones are set in the streets of Amsterdam where the people lived or worked. Guest speaker Sharon Hammerman will speak about her experience with getting a Stoplersteine.

“No Name Restaurant” is an ‘unorthodox comedy.’ Ben, an Orthodox Brooklyn Jew volunteers to go to Alexandria to be the tenth man for the ceremonies of Pesach. Kicked off a bus in the Sinai Desert, Ben is picked up by Adel, a Bedouin in search of his camel. When Adel’s vehicle breaks down, the two find commonality in the wilderness. Finally rescued by St. Catherine monks, Ben is too sick to go on. Adel disguised as Ben finishes his quest. It runs on Sept. 29 at 5 p.m. in Toms River and again at 7 pm at the Jewish Community Center of LBI.

There are also two days of virtual short films exploring gender-bending relationships in collaboration with A Wider Bridge. The four short films, “Arava,” “Diving In,” “I Missed you at Synagogue” and “Rachel and Yael” deal with acceptance and understanding of the LGBTQ+ communities in America and Israel. These are available Sept. 25 and 26 from 5 to 7 p.m.

Attendance at each film costs \$12 in advance or \$13 at the door, \$72 will buy the full package. Purchase tickets at www.jewishoceancounty.org/filmfestival.

2024



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Jewish Federation of Ocean County Annual Film Festival

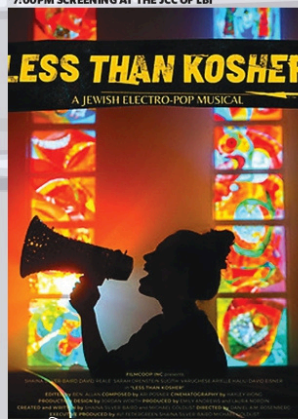
This program is made possible in part by a grant administered by the Ocean County Cultural & Heritage Commission from funds granted by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts.

TICKET PRICES: \$12 IN ADVANCE/\$13 AT THE DOOR (IF NOT AT FULL CAPACITY)/\$72 FULL PACKAGE PASS
ALL THEATER FILMS ARE IN ENGLISH.

Sunday, September 8 • 5:00pm & *7:00pm

Less Than Kosher

MARQUEE THEATER-ROUTE 37 TOMS RIVER
*7:00PM SCREENING AT THE JCC OF LBI



Sunday, September 15 • 5:00pm

The Boy in the Woods

MARQUEE THEATER-ROUTE 37 TOMS RIVER



Sunday, September 22 • 12:00pm

Here Lived

MARQUEE THEATER-ROUTE 37 TOMS RIVER



Sunday, September 29 • 5:00pm & *7:00pm

No Name Restaurant

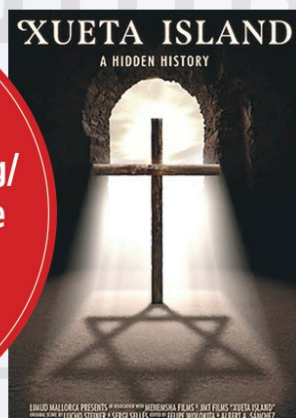
MARQUEE THEATER-ROUTE 37 TOMS RIVER
*7:00PM SCREENING AT THE JCC OF LBI



Monday–Thursday, September 9–12

Xueta Island

VIRTUAL SHOWING



Monday–Thursday, September 16–19

The Monkey House

VIRTUAL SHOWING



Wed–Thu, September 25–26 • 5:00–7:00pm

Two Day Shorts Program

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH A WIDER BRIDGE



Visit

www.jewishoceancounty.org/filmfestival and catch a free classic film:
Crown Heights



The Cultural Access Network Project is a state-wide resource for Accessibility. To view their calendar of accessible events, visit:

njtheatrealliance.org/whats-on/

To explore their other accessibility resources, visit:

njtheatrealliance.org/equity-access/#resources



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