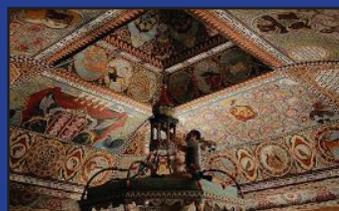


# 2016 VENTURA COUNTY JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL



## 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Season

February 28, 2016 & March 5, 6, 8, 10, 12, 13, 2016

### Jews of the Diaspora

In this Bar Mitzvah year of our Jewish Film Festival we have been inspired by the words of Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett, curator of the Museum of the History of Polish Jews in Warsaw. She says it is imperative to focus on Jewish life because if we don't, people "will know more about how Jews died than how they lived." In the fascinating documentary film, *Raise the Roof*, in which she is interviewed, the extraordinary efforts of an international community of artisans give us a glimpse of how Jews lived two hundred years ago in Poland. Her words guided many of our selections, primarily movies about lives of Jews of the Diaspora including a dramatization of a tragic kidnapping in France, illuminating the current wave of European anti-Semitism. For more information go to [VCJFF.org](http://VCJFF.org)

### Belle and Sebastian

This extraordinarily beautiful movie, sure to be a hit with the entire family, is a heartwarming story of a boy and a dog. The setting, a Nazi occupied alpine French village in 1944, is a strategic location for the French underground who are helping lead Jews to safety in Switzerland. (Ages 8+) Refreshments will be served.

Free Screening: Sponsored by the Ventura County Jewish Family Service through a generous donation by Mimi & Ray Diller — Reservations appreciated: JFS 641-6565

Sunday, February 28

TBT

2 PM

### Dough

A changing London neighborhood is the backdrop for an unlikely business partnership that develops between a widowed Jewish baker struggling against a chain store takeover and a young refugee from Darfur who needs a job. Fortunes for both protagonists change for the better as friendship and respect develop. The touching humanity of the characters has the audience jeering the villains and cheering its heroes.

Sponsored by Paula Reach

Saturday, March 5

Regency-Ventura

7 PM

### Raise the Roof

The synagogues of 17th-century Poland, rivaling the greatest wooden architectural structures in history, inspired artists Rick and Laura Brown of Handshouse Studio in Massachusetts to embark on an ambitious 10-year artistic project. Working with over 300 dedicated artisans from 16 countries, they reconstructed the elaborate roof and painted ceiling of the Gwozdziec synagogue destroyed by the Nazis in WWII. They grappled with echoes of the war, warped timbers, tricky paints, and primitive period hand tools. They not only reconstructed a lost treasure, they recovered a lost world. In 2014, the Gwozdziec structure was unveiled as the centerpiece of Warsaw's POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews. The film is from the archives of the National Center for Jewish Film.

Sponsored by Alphabet Soup Puppeteers - Arla and Jay Crane

Sunday, March 6

TBT

7 PM

### Farewell Party

From Israel comes this tastefully done comedy/drama that skates a fine line in its depiction of the topical subject of death by self-determination. At the urging of a terminally ill friend, Yehezkel, a mechanical genius, builds a Kavorkian-like suicide machine that becomes the hit of the old-age home where he lives. The Farewell Party provides a thoughtful yet entertaining starting point for discussion of the ethical and humane questions of euthanasia.

Sponsored by Barbara Meister

Tuesday, March 8

Regency-Ventura

7 PM

### The Price of Sugar

Suriname in the mid-eighteenth century had a thriving Portuguese-Jewish community. Many Jews owned sugar plantations and slaves. One of these slaves, Mini-mini, the film's narrator, tells the story of her life centering around Sarith who is both her mistress and half-sister. Born on the same day, the two are inseparable. Sarith, the daughter of privilege, grows to be a beautiful young woman. Jilted by the man she expects to marry, Sarith descends into cruel narcissism. Filmmaker, Dutch-African Jean Van de Velde's historic-drama is based on a novel by Surinamese writer, Cynthia McLeod. His film, intended for mature audiences, explores the history of Suriname's Jewish community as well as the complicated and tragic experiences of African slavery. (NR: contains violence, nudity and sexual content)

Sponsored by Jewelry Couture by Sehati & The Sehati Family

Thursday, March 10

Regency-Ventura

7 PM

### 24 Days

In 2006 a young French-Jewish man was kidnapped in Paris and inhumanly held while being systematically tortured. It appeared that he had been randomly selected by a gang targeting Jews for ransom. The beautifully made and skillfully acted film illuminates the serious nature of the current wave of European *anti-Semitism*. We will follow the screening at the Regency Theater with dinner at TBT to come together to talk about the issues raised by this movie.

Sponsored by Joel and Barbara Aaronson and The Affordable Living Choices Trust

Saturday, March 12

Regency-Ventura

4 PM

Dinner at TBT follows. Prepaid reservations: \$25.00 per person.

### The Gatekeepers

Six former heads of Israel's secret service agency, the Shin Bet, discuss their organization's successes and failures since the Six Day War in 1967. This film raises important policy questions about Israel's relationship vis-à-vis the Palestinians.

Sponsored by Temple Beth Torah Brotherhood

Sunday, March 13

TBT

Noon

Brotherhood Brunch served at noon with screening and discussion to follow

## Contributor levels

**STUDIO HEAD: \$2500+ FESTIVAL SPONSOR**

**PRODUCER: \$1000-\$2499 FILM SPONSOR**

- Your name or the name of your business featured in the program\*
- 2 Festival Passes
- 6 Individual single admission tickets to film screenings
- 4 free dinners for Sponsor's Dinner, on February 20 & Festival's Saturday Dinner, March 12

**DIRECTOR: \$500-\$999**

- Your name will featured in the program\*
- 2 Festival Passes
- 4 Individual single admission tickets to film screenings
- 2 free dinners for Sponsor's Dinner on February 20 & Festival's Saturday Dinner, March 12

**SCREENWRITER: \$300-\$499**

- Your name will appear in the program\*
- 2 Festival Passes
- 2 Individual single admission tickets to film screenings
- 2 free dinners to the Sponsor's Dinner on February 20

**ACTOR: \$150-\$299**

- Your name will appear in the program\*
- 2 Festival Passes

\*Contributions need to be received by February 1, 2016 for recognition in the program

For all Festival Supporters please indicate your Contributor Level & send in the form with your contribution:

Make Checks payable to:

Temple Beth Torah, 7620 Foothill Road, Ventura, CA 93004



Name (s) \_\_\_\_\_  
 (As you wish your name to appear in the program)

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

## Play a Starring Role

The VCJF gratefully acknowledges our **FESTIVAL SPONSORS Sandra and Jordan Laby**, for their generous donation. Their support along with yours makes our Jewish Film Festival possible. We hope that you will also become a contributor in support of the VCJFF.

## Sponsors' Dinner



**February 20, 2016**

**Gourmet Dinner and Film**

*(Nicky's Family, sponsored by Sandra and Jordan Laby)*

**by Invitation only with a contribution of \$300 or more**

### INDIVIDUAL TICKETS AND FESTIVAL PASSES

FESTIVAL PASS – \$80.00

(6 movies. \*Pass does not include dinner on March 12)

INDIVIDUAL TICKETS – \$15.00

(At the door-\$18.00)

ORDER ONLINE at:

[brownpapertickets.com/profile/244573](http://brownpapertickets.com/profile/244573)

BY PHONE call 1-800-838-3006

(Note: Belle and Sebastian on 2/28 is a FREE event)

Reservations appreciated: JFS 641-6565)

### FILM FESTIVAL EVENTS

- |  |                 |          |                                 |
|--|-----------------|----------|---------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Belle & Sebastian (ages 8+)                                 | Sun., Feb. 28   | TBT/FREE | 2 PM                            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dough   | Sat., Mar. 5    | Regency  | 7 PM                            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Raise the Roof  | Sun., Mar. 6    | TBT      | 7 PM                            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Farewell Party  | Tues., Mar. 8   | Regency  | 7 PM                            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> The Price of Sugar  | Thurs., Mar. 10 | Regency  | 7 PM                            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 24 Days   | Sat., Mar. 12   | Regency  | 4 PM<br>(Early start time)      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> *Dinner following screening of 24 DAYS (\$25.00 per person) |                 | TBT      | 6:30 PM                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> The Gatekeepers   | Sun., Mar. 13   | TBT      | Noon<br>(Brunch begins at noon) |

(Please note: There are a limited number of need-based free tickets to each screening through Rabbi Lisa Hochberg-Miller. Everyone is welcome.)