



Ventura County Jewish Film Festival

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True Stories: Great Films 16th Annual Jewish Film Festival

This year's festival will offer a mix of ten-plus entertaining documentaries, and dramas mostly based on true stories.

The Festival Schedule:

Sunday, February 3 2 PM TBT **Sponsor: Ventura County Jewish Family Service through a generous donation by Mimi Diller in memory of Ray Diller.**

Monkey Business

Director: Emma Ryan Yamazaki 81 minutes 2017 USA

This film is a charming presentation of the extraordinary lives of Hans and Margret Rey, the authors of the beloved Curious George children's books. It combines graphic art with personal reminiscences of people who knew the Reys intimately, as well as old film footage of the Reys.

Plus a short film: **An Average Story**

Director: Yaniv Segalovich 17 minutes 2015 Israel **FREE Movie**

A delightful comedy tells the plight of the unlucky fellow who is designated the most average man in Israel.

OFFICIAL OPENING NIGHT:

Saturday, February 9 7 PM Regency Theater **Sponsor: Fran and Ed Elson**

1945 Director: Ferenc Török 91 Min. 2017 Hungary Russian and Hungarian (subtitles)

12 August 1945, 11 AM. Two mysterious strangers dressed in black appear at the railway station of a Hungarian village. Within a few hours, everything changes. This is considered one of the best foreign films shown in the US this past year and not to be missed.

Sunday, February 10 2 PM TBT **Sponsor: Jessica and Harvey Harris**

Woman in Gold Director: Simon Curtis 107 Minutes 2015 UK, English and German (subtitles)

Sixty years after fleeing Vienna, Maria Altmann (Helen Mirren), an elderly Jewish woman, attempts to reclaim family artwork that includes the exquisite Klimt portrait of Maria's beloved Aunt Adele Bloch-Bauer.

Saturday, February 16 7 PM Regency Theater **Sponsor: Jessica and Harvey Harris**

Black Book Director: Paul Verhoeven 145 minutes. 2017 Netherlands Germany UK Belgium. Dutch, German, English & Hebrew (subtitles)

This R Rated thriller is set in Nazi-occupied Netherlands during World War II and tells the story of a Jewish singer who infiltrates the regional Gestapo headquarters for the Dutch resistance.

Sunday, February 17 2 PM TBT **Sponsor: Barbara Meister**

Bag of Marbles Director: Christian Duguay 110 Minutes. 2018 France. French German Yiddish Russian (subtitles)

In his 3 1/2 stars (out of 4 stars) review, Matt Fagerhold writes "the film's great value is the degree to which it makes such a barbaric and bewildering chapter in human history comprehensible for young audiences." Based on the 1973 memoir by Joseph Joffo. In spite of its serious story this is a charming film.

Saturday, March 9 7 PM Regency Theater **Sponsor: Jordon Laby**

Itzhak Director: Alison Chernick 82 minutes 2018 Israel USA.

The opening scenes of this exceptional documentary, show renowned violinist, Yitzhak Perlman, a rabid Mets fan, getting ready to perform "The Star Spangled Banner". Chernick allows us to see Perlman as a real person; a loving husband, father, consummate performer, and all around mensch.

Sunday, March 10 2 PM TBT **Sponsor: Joel and Barbara Aaronson & The Affordable Living Choices Trust**

Late Summer Blues Director: Renen Schorr 90 minutes 1988 Israel Hebrew (subtitles)

Considered one of the best Israeli movies ever made. It begins with a group of high school students about to graduate, clinging to the last moments of their innocence, before the reality of the next chapter begins. Likened to the American film, *Beach Party*.

Saturday, March 16 7 PM Regency Theater **Sponsor: Joel & Arlene Goldenberg, & Goldenberg Family Dentistry**

Sammy Davis, Jr. Director: Samuel Pollard 100 Minutes 2017 USA France English

A star-studded compendium of interviews interspersed by footage documenting Davis's outstanding talents and his personal life.

Sunday, March 17 Noon + Brunch TBT **Sponsor: Brotherhood Brunch**

Keep the Change (speaker to follow movie) Director: Rachel Israel 94 minutes 2018 USA English

This romantic comedy has been headlining Jewish Film Festivals all over the country to great audience response. The story line, boy meets girl, in the unlikely setting of a support group that meets at a Jewish Community Center, offers insight into a world not often depicted on screen.

Speaker to follow film: Rick Clemens, MA is a consultant on autism education, working with teachers, students and their parents on successfully addressing challenging behaviors that impact inclusion in the regular classroom.

