

2009 Charlotte Jewish Film Festival to Bring Laughs to Uptown

The 2009 Charlotte Jewish Film Festival (February 28- March 8) will include a Night of Kosher Comedy at the McGlohon Theater in Spirit Square on Thursday, March 5, 7 PM. This special evening of comedy will include one feature-length documentary and four shorts all for the low price of \$10.

The feature documentary, *Circumcise Me*, is the wild true story of Yisrael Campbell, one of Israel's most popular comedians. Born Chris Campbell in Philadelphia and raised Catholic by an ex-nun, Campbell initially rejected all religion and spent his teenage years under the influence

of drugs. As a young adult, he met a woman who introduced him to Judaism and he finally found what he was searching for: a religion he believed in and a plethora of material for his stand-up comedy routine. He ultimately converted to Judaism 3 times—Reform, Conservative and Orthodox—and each time underwent that age old ritual of circumcision. In his comedy show he quips, "Three circumcisions is not a religious covenant. It's a fetish."

More than just a barrel of laughs, *Circumcise Me* questions the place and purpose that comedy should play. What is okay to joke about and what is off-limits? For

example, Campbell finds solace for the suicide bombing deaths of two close friends through his humor.

This intimate look at the "Matisyahu of Comedy" will keep you laughing as you share his topsy-turvy life story and journey of spiritual self-discovery.

Following the screening of *Circumcise Me*, four additional shorts will be shown including *West Bank Story*, the 2007 Academy Award winner for Best Live Action Short. A take-off on *West Side Story*, it is the hilarious story of rival falafel stands in the West Bank, one Israeli-owned, the other Palestinian. *1-800 Kosher*, A



Yisrael Campbell in "Circumcise Me."

Trip to Prague and *Speaking of Yiddish* will round out this wonderful night of laughs. Take a trip uptown on the light rail or stick around after work- either way you are in for a terrific treat.

The Fifth Anniversary Charlotte Jewish Film Festival promises to be the best one yet. If comedy is not your thing, join us for one of our fascinating documentaries or dramatic feature-length films. Check out the website, www.charlottejewishfilm.com, as well as the February edition of *The Charlotte Jewish News* for a complete listing of the fantastic films coming to a neighborhood theater near you. There is sure to be something for everyone.

The Charlotte Jewish Film Festival is brought to you by the Charlotte Chapter of Hadassah

and the Levine Jewish Community Center with support from the Arts and Science Council. ☆



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JCC Tributes

(Continued from page 13)

Judy and Stan August and Roni and Glenn Fishkin
Mindy Ellen Levine Day Camp Endowment Fund

Happy Chanukah to Amy Levine, Sandra and Leon Levine, and Lori and Eric Sklut from Julie, Howard, Brian, Mandy, Sophie and Evan Levine

In honor of Eric Sklut's birthday from Lewis Sinkoe and Kevin Levine

Oasis Senior Adult Program Fund

In honor of Golda Schwartz from Marissa Brooks and family
Robert Schumer Fund for Children of Special Needs

In loving memory of Robert Schumer, brother of Barry Schumer from Judy and Stan August, Shellie and Harvey Barer, Evelyn Berger, Tammy and Andy Cohen and family, Roni and Glenn Fishkin and family, Stephanie Garner and Family, Bill Gorelick, Karen Greenblatt, The LJCC Board of Directors, Marcia Lampert, Phil Levine and Phil's Deli, Karen Maniloff and family, Steven Menaker, Sandy and Alan Rosenberg, Butch Rosen, Anne and Michael Sinsheimer, Eric Sklut, Jodi and Greg Valenstein, Sue and Kim Worrel ☆

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Out of the depths I call to You, Redeemer. Gracious One, hear my voice; May Your ears be attentive to the sound of my pleas. My soul waits for You, More eagerly than watchmen wait for the morning, Watchmen for the morning.

-- Psalm 130:1-2, 6