

Movies Featuring Fascinating Characters are Feataured at the 7th Annual Charlotte Jewish Film Festival

A mysterious matchmaker from Haifa, a crusading newspaper publisher from Las Vegas, a super athlete with a secret, and young circus performers from St. Louis - these are just a few of the fascinating characters you will meet at the 7th Annual Charlotte Jewish Film Festival. The much anticipated Festival runs March 3-13 and has something for film lovers of all ages. Tickets are on sale now at www.charlottejewishfilm.com or through CarolinaTix.

The Festival opens on Thursday, March 3 with a free screening of the inspirational documentary *An Article of Hope*. Don't miss this touching story of Israeli astronaut Ilan Ramon and the tiny torah that travels with him on the Space Shuttle Columbia.

The first weekend of the Festival features a special milestone celebration for founding sponsor Hadassah and two films with sports themes. On Saturday, March 5, don't miss the much-anticipated film *The Matchmaker*, winner of two Ophir Awards (Israel's Academy Awards). This delightful film about mysteries of the heart will headline the Hadassah Centennial Celebration and Dessert Reception at Ballantyne Village Stadium 5.

On Sunday, March 6 at the Levine JCC, check out *Berlin 36*, the unbelievable true tale of Gretel Bergmann, a Jewish athlete on track for Olympic gold until her dreams are derailed by the Nazis and the uber-athlete they pit her against. Later that day, find out about the contribution of Jews to Major League Baseball in *Jews and Baseball: An American Love Story*. Brought to you and hosted by Temple Israel and Temple Israel Men's Club, this engrossing documentary is narrated by Dustin Hoffman and will be followed by a discussion with former major-



A scene from "The Matchmaker."

leaguer Ron Blomberg. You don't have to be a sports fan to appreciate these fantastic movies.

If you are a lover of live entertainment as well as films, you won't want to miss *Circus Kids* on Tuesday, March 8 and *The Golem* on Sunday, March 13. Sponsored by Temple Beth El in conjunction with Mecklenburg Ministries, *Circus Kids* follows the youth circus troupe St. Louis Arches as they travel to Israel to perform with a circus group comprised of Israeli and Arab children. This award-winning interfaith film depicts how children from very diverse backgrounds come to realize they are not so different after all. A special performance by members of the Arches will follow the screening. This is sure to be a great evening for the whole family.

The Golem is a silent film masterpiece based on an ancient Jewish myth. Come enjoy this horror classic along with live musical accompaniment provided by pianist Ethan Uslan and clarinetist Gene Kavadlo. This unique opportunity is brought to you by the Charlotte Mecklenburg Library with an introduction by the Library's own Sam Shapiro, and promises to be an afternoon of wonderful entertainment.

The Festival moves Uptown to the Patricia McBride and Jean-Pierre Bonnefoux Center for Dance on Thursday, March 10 for the film *Breaking Upwards*, sponsored by the Light Factory

Contemporary Museum of Photography & Film. After four years of dating, a young couple grows bored of each other, but fearful of parting ways they strategize their breakup and experiment with a less exclusive relationship.

The 7th Annual Charlotte Jewish Film Festival will come to a close with some highly touted films. Head over to Ballantyne Village Stadium 5 on Saturday, March 12 for the heart-warming coming-of-age movie *Eli and Ben*, which is sponsored by the Levine JCC. Then close out the Festival on Sunday, March 13th with the compelling documentary *Where I Stand: The Hank Greenspun Story*. The favorite film of the Festival Selection Committee, Greenspun is an amazing biography of the most incredible man you probably have never heard of.

Mark your calendars and don't miss out on the best in Jewish film from around the world. All-festival passes are available and will give you access to every ticketed film at a great savings! (Please note: our free film is non-ticketed and seating for that screening is on a first-come, first-served basis.)

See our enclosed brochure in this issue of *The Charlotte Jewish News* or check out our website, www.charlottejewishfilm.com, for more information about the films, dates and venues. We look forward to seeing you at the movies.

The Charlotte Jewish Film Festival is brought to you by the Levine JCC and the Charlotte Chapter of Hadassah, and is made possible, in part, with funding by the Arts & Science Council and the North Carolina Arts Council, an agency of the Department of Cultural Resources, and the National Endowment for the Arts, which believes that a great nation deserves great art. ✪



JCC Tributes

- Butterfly Garden Project Fund**
In honor of Judy August from Ellen and Tim Martin
- In honor of Sandra and Leon Levine from Ken Collins
- In honor of Suly Chenkin from Zaydee Lopez-Ibanez
- In honor of Susan Rabinovich's birthday from Dana and Andrew Kapustin
- In memory of Steven Gainsboro from the Stier family
- In memory of Martin Blumberg, father of Ellen Framm, from Dana and Andrew Kapustin

- Oasis Memorial Fund for Senior Programming**
In honor of Marvin Shapiro from Carol Welch

- Oasis Senior Adult Program Fund**
In honor of Anne Yudell from Sharon Pearson
- David Silverman Memorial Fund**
In honor of Arlene Dunn's birthday from Mattye and Marc Silverman
- Mindy Ellen Levine Day Camp Fund**
In honor of Lori Sklut's birthday from Shawn Pittman ✪



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