

9th Charlotte Jewish Film Festival in March

The 9th Annual Charlotte Jewish Film Festival is just around the corner. Mark your calendars for Mar 2-17 when the best in Jewish cinema from around the world comes to the Queen City. The award-winning films run the gamut from documentary to feature-length drama to romantic comedy. The festival is pleased to present a children's film and program for the first time ever. In addition, our neighbors to the north in Lake Norman will be screening three films this year. As in past years, there is an All-Festival Pass that gives you access to all ticketed films (including the Lake Norman flicks) at a great savings. Right now the All-Festival Pass can be purchased for just \$75, a savings of \$40. The cost will go up to \$85 after January 20, so don't delay, get yours today and enjoy all the films for an unbelievably low price. Tickets can be purchased at www.charlottejewishfilm.com. If you don't feel comfortable navigating the internet, feel free to stop by the Levine-Sklut Judaic Library during their normal hours and someone can help you with the computer purchase. Also, tickets will be sold on January 13 in the Levine JCC lobby from 10 AM-1:30 PM and on February 24 from 12 noon-3 PM. If you have enjoyed the Festival in the past, we thank you for your support and look forward to seeing you again this year. If you have yet to partake of what has become a cultural

gem of the Charlotte arts scene, we hope you will come find out why the CJFF was voted Best of the Best for Film Festivals by the readers of Charlotte Magazine. Whether it is date night, girls' night out or a playdate, the Charlotte Jewish Film Festival is sure to have something for you.

Saturday, March 2, 7:30 PM, Temple Israel, Opening Night Bash, \$25

Hava Nagila

Sponsor: Charlotte Chapter of Hadassah

An entertaining, upbeat exploration of the song that defines the American Jewry (see sidebar for full story). Special appearance by Director Roberta Grossman. Screening followed by professionally catered dessert reception and musical entertainment.

Sunday, March 3, 7 PM, Temple Israel, \$10

Wunderkinder

The moving story of three exceptional child prodigies who are forced to use their musical skill, undying friendship, and an abundant amount of courage to try to survive a grown up world gone mad.

Tuesday, March 5, 7 PM, Temple Israel, \$8

The Other Son

Sponsor: Temple Israel

Switched at birth, two teens, an Israeli and a Palestinian, are forced to question their identities.

Wednesday, March 6, 7 PM, Temple Israel, \$8

In Heaven Underground

Sponsor: Hebrew Cemetery
The LA Times called it a "playful, poetic and all-around charming" look at the 130-year-old Weissensee Jewish Cemetery, the largest Jewish cemetery still in use in Europe.

Saturday, March 9, 7:30 PM, Ballantyne Village Theater, \$10

Paris-Manhattan

Sophie is a single 30-something living in Paris who is totally obsessed with Woody Allen: she quotes his work, recommends his films to customers and even has conversations with him (via his poster on her wall).

Sunday, March 10, 3 PM, Ballantyne Village Theater, \$8

The Day I Saw Your Heart

Justine learns how complicated families are when her 60-year-old father reveals that his young second wife is expecting.

Sunday, March 10, 7 PM, Ballantyne Village Theater, \$10

Bottle in the Gaza Sea

Sponsor: Temple Beth-El

A message in a bottle leads to an engrossing email exchange between a 17-year-old Israeli girl and a 20-year-old Palestinian boy.

Tuesday, March 12, 7 PM, Sam Lerner Center at the JCC, \$8

Follow Me: The Yoni Netanyahu Story

Yoni Netanyahu hated war but loved his country and as leader of the seemingly impossible successful Raid on Entebbe, tragically became the only Israeli casualty.

Saturday, March 16, 7:30 PM, Sam Lerner Center at the

JCC, \$10

Dorfman

Deb Dorfman (Sara Rue) is a 20-something Jewish girl who lives in LA with her crotchety old father (Oscar-nominated Elliott Gould) but yearns to take charge of her somewhat out of control life.

Sunday, March 17, 3 PM, Sam Lerner Center at the JCC, \$8

My Best Enemy

In the style of *Inglourious Basterds* comes an incredible tale filled with mistaken identity, international intrigue, romance, betrayal, and dramatic plot turns.

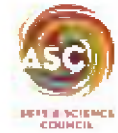
Sunday, March 17, 7 PM, Sam Lerner Center at the JCC, \$10

AKA Doc Pomus

Sponsor: Levine JCC

Jerome Felder (AKA Doc Pomus) was a self-described "fat Jewish boy with polio" who became one of the most prolific songwriters in history ("Viva Las Vegas," "Save the Last Dance For Me," and "This Magic Moment" to name just a few).

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. ☆



For more on our opening night movie, *Hava Nagila*, please see the story on the next page.

CJDS pointed me in the right direction!



Elyssa Gorelick. Sophomore U. of South Carolina, Elementary Ed.

This past spring, I spent several weeks student teaching at CJDS.

I was thrilled to work with many of the same teachers who had cultivated my own love of learning. In fact, my dream of becoming a teacher first took root in my second grade year at CJDS. That dream is now blossoming for me, as I pursue a college degree in Elementary Education.



As a student at CJDS, I enjoyed a stimulating learning environment which encouraged creativity, independence, and a passion for Judaism. When I left CJDS, I was well prepared for middle school. It is so satisfying to witness today's kids benefitting from those very same qualities.