

Charlotte Jewish Film Festival Spotlight

Opening Night Celebration – Saturday, February 20 – 7:15 PM at Temple Israel (\$25.00)

Jonathan Pryce stars as an old



Jewish baker whose faltering business is inadvertently saved by his young Muslim apprentice in the British dramedy *Dough*.

Widowed and down on his luck, Nat Dayan (Pryce) is desperate to save his London bake shop. His customers are dying off, his sons have no interest in keeping afloat the family business, and a real estate developer has his own greedy plans for the property.

After his assistant leaves him, Nat reluctantly hires teenager Ayyash (Jerome Holder), a refugee from Darfur. Ayyash helps with the bakery's daily chores while also selling cannabis on the side to help his struggling mother make ends meet. When he one day accidentally drops his stash into the dough, the challah suddenly starts flying off the shelves. An unlikely friendship forms between Nat and Ayyash as business booms.

Dough is a warmhearted and gently humorous story about find-

ing redemption in unexpected places.

Special guest(s) are scheduled to appear and there will be a dessert reception after the film.

Sunday, February 21 – 7:15 PM at Temple Israel (\$10.00)

Rock in the Red Zone presents an intimate and compelling tale of music and perseverance on the



frontlines of a never-ending war.

On the edge of Israel's Negev Desert, half a mile from Gaza (and directly in the path of thousands of Hamas rockets) is Sderot, a city made up of refugees from wide ranging locales such as Spain, North Africa, and the Middle East. This melting pot of diverse cultures became the unlikely setting

of inspiration as the people of Sderot found a way to cope with the trauma of being pummeled for 14 years by homemade missiles known as Qassams.

In underground bomb shelters, feelings of frustration, fear and hope have turned into magic – a unique Sderot sound that injects Middle Eastern influences into traditional Western beats, creating unique rhythms and a new genre that has transformed Israeli music.

In *Rock in the Red Zone*, filmmaker Laura Bialis shows how resilience and the power of artistic creation can transcend even the most challenging circumstances.

Special live musical performance by the film's star Avi Vaknin is scheduled for after the film.

Wednesday, February 24 – 7:15 PM at Temple Israel (\$10.00)

Surviving Skokie centers on a series of dark days in small-town America that force a resilient group of Holocaust survivors to relive a devastating past. Eli Adler's deeply personal film follows the journey of his father,



Jack, a Polish immigrant and concentration camp survivor who rebuilt his life in Skokie, Illinois. But the quiet existence of hundreds of survivors is rocked to its core in the late '70s when a neo-Nazi group announces plans to march through town. As the community comes together to confront these hate mongers, long-festered emotional scars and severe memories are uncovered.

Surviving Skokie combines fascinating historical footage and a penetrating first-person perspective to capture the intimate psychological details of 70 years of persecution and prejudice. The generational journey comes full circle after a poignant trip back to Poland provides a profound opportunity for a son to fully under-

stand his father's turbulent history.

Jack and Eli Adler are scheduled to appear for a talkback after the film.

Sunday, February 28 – 11:00 AM at Regal Ballantyne (\$15.00)

Ina Pinkney is a Chicago legend of the tastiest kind. Known around town as the "Breakfast Queen," she has been feeding Chicagoans for the past 33 years – first, out of a small bakery and then from her beloved breakfast nook in the West Loop. Ina, who survived polio as an infant, now suffers the effects of post-polio syndrome and decided to close the doors of her celebrated establishment at the end of 2013.

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