

Twin Cities Jewish Film Festival Contact:
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THE TWIN CITIES JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL OPENS MARCH 18, 2017! A PARTNERSHIP OF THE SABES JCC AND THE ST. PAUL JCC

For Immediate Release: February 7, 2017

Minneapolis/St. Paul—The Sabes JCC and the St. Paul JCC are thrilled to announce the film line-up of the Twin Cities Jewish Film Festival, scheduled to open on March 18, 2017. A partnership of the Sabes JCC and the St. Paul JCC, this year's festival includes thought-provoking films designed to build bridges and create dialogue; entertaining films designed to make us laugh and cry; and groundbreaking films that are not offered in other venues in the Twin Cities. Plus, our "beyond the screen" programs provide the opportunity to gather together for deeper and enriching engagement that keeps the conversation going long after the credits have rolled. Opening night (March 18) will feature the Advanced Screening of *The Zookeeper's Wife*, the real-life story of a working wife and mother who became a hero to hundreds during World War II; Sunday, March 19 will feature THREE Midwest premieres of *The Children of Chance* at 2 PM, *1945* at 4 PM, and *The Women's Balcony* at 7:30 PM, Israel's #1 film of the year featuring a good-hearted tale about women speaking truth to patriarchal power in a time of crisis; the Festival will host the world premiere of *Escape From Room 18*, a documentary on American anti-Semitism (March 23); the Festival will conclude at the St. Paul JCC with the Minnesota premiere *Bang! The Bert Berns Story*. This year's Festival truly has something for everyone!

For more information or to purchase tickets visit: www.tcjfilmfest.org

Tickets can be purchased by calling 952.381.3499 or email tickets@sabesjcc.org

SCHEDULE OF FILMS

OPENING NIGHT

THE ZOOKEEPER'S WIFE (Sneak peek before the nationwide theatrical release on March 31!)

SATURDAY, MARCH 18 – 7:30 PM

LOCATION: SABES JCC

The real-life story of one working wife and mother who became a hero to hundreds during World War II. In 1939 Poland, Antonina Żabińska (two-time Academy Award nominee Jessica Chastain) and her husband, Dr. Jan Żabiński (Johan Heldenbergh of *The Broken Circle Breakdown*), have the Warsaw Zoo flourishing. When their country is invaded by the Nazis, Jan and Antonina are forced to report to the Reich's newly appointed chief zoologist, Lutz Heck (Daniel Brühl of *Captain America: Civil War*). To fight back on their own terms, they covertly begin working with the Resistance – and put into action plans to save lives out of the Warsaw Ghetto, with Antonina putting herself and even her children at risk.

Directed by Niki Caro | USA | 2017 | English | General Audiences: Suggested ages 13-adult | 126 minutes
Pre-show reception with food and drinks at 6:30 PM

THE CHILDREN OF CHANCE

SUNDAY, MARCH 19 – 2 PM

LOCATION: SABES JCC

Family Friendly. In this tender coming-of-age drama, a Jewish boy finds friendship, camaraderie and safety in the shelter of a children's hospital in Nazi-occupied France. Young Maurice Gutman narrowly escapes a round-up of Jews after breaking his leg in a dust-up with bullies. While treated for his injury, Maurice is diagnosed with tuberculosis and committed to a long-term treatment facility. As the war intensifies, the sympathetic chief physician and his hospital staff must resort to drastic measures to keep the Jewish patients safe from Nazi patrols.

Directed by Malik Chibane | France | 2016 | French, Yiddish, German, with English subtitles | 95 minutes

General Audiences: Suggested ages 10 - adult

Pre-show movie snacks at 1:30 PM

1945

SUNDAY, MARCH 19 – 4 PM

LOCATION: SABES JCC

In this astonishingly haunting film, deep undercurrents run beneath the simple surface in a quaint Hungarian village that's ultimately forced to face up to its "ill-gotten gains" from the Second World War. When two Orthodox Jews arrive at the train station of a small village on a sweltering August day in 1945, the villagers fear the men may be heirs of the town's deported Jews, come to reclaim their property and possessions ripped from them during the war.

Directed by Ferenc Török | Hungary | 2017 | Hungarian with English subtitles | 91 minutes

General Audiences: Suggested ages 16 – adult

Pre-show movie snacks at 3:30 PM.

THE WOMEN'S BALCONY

SUNDAY, MARCH 19 – 7:30 PM

LOCATION: SABES JCC

Israel's #1 film of the year! When the women's balcony in an Orthodox synagogue collapses during a bar mitzvah celebration, the congregation falls into crisis. The accident leads to a gender rift in the devout Jerusalem Orthodox community, in this rousing, good-hearted tale about women speaking truth to patriarchal power.

Directed by Shlomit Nehama & Emil Ben-Shimon | Israel | 2016 | Hebrew with English subtitles | 98 minutes

General Audiences: Suggested ages 13 - adult

Pre-show movie snacks at 7 PM

ESCAPE FROM ROOM 18

THURSDAY, MARCH 23 – 7:30 PM

LOCATION: ST. PAUL JCC

The true story of John Daly, an ex-neo-Nazi who fled to Israel after his own gang nearly killed him for being Jewish. On a mission to better themselves and make amends for the past, Daly and fellow ex-skinhead Kevin Connell meet in Prague to discover and see firsthand the effects of what they both practiced and preached.

Directed by Daniel Brea | USA, Israel | 2017 | English | 59 minutes

Mature Audiences - Content

Pre-show movie snacks at 7 PM

CLOSING NIGHT

BANG! THE BERT BERNS STORY

SATURDAY, MARCH 25 – 7:30 PM

LOCATION: ST. PAUL JCC

Music meets the Mob in this biographical documentary, narrated by Steven Van Zandt, about the life and career of Bert Berns, the most important songwriter and record producer from the sixties that you never heard of. His hits include *Twist and Shout*, *Hang on Sloopy*, *Heres Comes The Night* and *Piece of My Heart*. He helped launch the careers of Van Morrison and Neil Diamond and produced some of the greatest soul music ever made. Brett Berns brings his late father's story to the screen with interviews with those who knew him best and rare performance footage. Included in the film are interviews with Ronald Isley, Ben E. King, Solomon Burke, Van Morrison and Paul McCartney.

Directed by Brett Berns | USA | 2016 | English | 94 minutes

General Audiences: Suggested ages 13 - adult

Pre-show reception with food and drinks at 6:30 PM

Venues

Sabes JCC, 4330 S. Cedar Lake Road, St. Louis Park

St. Paul JCC, 1375 St. Paul Avenue, St. Paul

The Sabes Jewish Community Center and the St. Paul Jewish Community Center are multifaceted organizations offering educational, social, cultural, recreational, and fitness to the entire community. Program areas include early childhood education, summer camp, health & fitness, recreation, Jewish arts & culture, senior programs, special events and more. The Sabes JCC and St. Paul JCC creates a wide-range of opportunities for people to connect, grow, and learn through meaningful programs that enrich Jewish life, build Jewish identity and strengthen our community.