

Maysles Institute

NEWS ABOUT US MAYSLES CINEMA EDUCATION INTERNSHIPS KHAM FILM PROJECT MEMBERSHIP MAYSLES FILMS

MAYSLES CINEMA: NEW ISRAELI CINEMA FROM GAZA & SDEROT

DIRECTED BY JESSICA GREEN

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A new wave of cinema has emerged in Southern Israel during the last decade. It began in the most unexpected place, in a Gazan war zone on the Sderot border. It began in small immigrants' towns and settlements of people from Arab countries, North Africa, South America and Eastern Europe. The rise of those who live at the periphery, along the border, brings new voice, which used to be repressed and denied by Israeli hegemony for years. "New Israeli Cinema from Gaza and Sderot" provides a very rare opportunity to witness, explore and discuss this new wave and perspective.

Curated by Avner Faingulernt. Sponsored by the Visual and Audio Art Department at Sapir College, Cinema South International Film Festival, JMT Films and Screening Partners.



Box office open for advance ticket purchases Mon-Fri 12-6 & from 1 hour before until the end of all events. During these hours, knock on the window if door is locked.

MAY 2012

Tuesday,
May 1st,
7:30pm

IMMIGRANTS STORIES FROM NETIVOT

Sisai

David Gavro. *Israel/Ethiopia, 2005, 56 min.*

20-year-old Sisai, an Ethiopian immigrant, lives in Israel with his adoptive family, the Gavros. His father returns from Ethiopia with news about the whereabouts of Sisai's biological father. Confused by the news and the realization that he has to confront his past, Sisai does not share his family's excitement. He is too busy with his own news, Sivan, his girlfriend, is pregnant. The film's director, who is also Sisai's brother, joins him and their father on a journey to Ethiopia in search of identity, blood connection, love and longing.

[Website](#)

Winner: Lombardia Prize for Best Film: Milan African Film Festival - Italy 2006

Winner: Best Documentary Award: Jerusalem International Film Festival - Israel 2005

Winner: Best First Film Award: Israel Documentary Awards - Israel 2006

Hot Docs Canadian International Documentary Festival Toronto - Canada 2006

The African Diaspora Film Festival, New York City - USA 2006

My Family's Pizza

Ronen Amar. *Israel, 2003, 52 min.*

Maksim, a sleep addict, asks his parents to help him buy a pizza place. As soon as the work begins, the parents realize they will have to invest a lot more than just money. With dad as the delivery boy and mom as the oven cleaner, the film provides a true profile of the average Israeli immigrant family in the new millennium. Perhaps the same applies to your home and family?

3 Continents Film Festival, Nantes - France 2010

Winner: Best Documentary Award: The Mediterranean Film Festival of Algarve - Portugal 2006

Gold Remi Award: Worldfest International Film Festival - Houston, Texas - USA 2005

Newport Beach International Film Festival, California - USA 2004

Followed by a Q&A with curator, director and educator Avner Faingulernt



Sisai



My Family's Pizza

Wednesday,
May 2nd,
7:30pm

A FEMININE POINT OF VIEW

Chicken and the Egg (Play me Allegro)



Alon Alsheich & Eran Yehezkel, Israel, 2005, 40 min.
 On the border between Israel and the Palestinian authority, 4 km from Gaza, lies the Nir-Am kibbutz. In spite of Israeli missiles and helicopters soaring above their heads, and Palestinian rockets falling in their yard, Julia, a Russian immigrant, and her five-year-old daughter, choose not to give up. Between taking her child from a violin lesson to a dancing class, Julia takes her political left-winged ideology one step further. In doing so, she starts a chain reaction that will lead to results she could never have anticipated. This is an intimate and surprising story of a mother and daughter who raise each other in their barbed-wired Garden of Eden.
[Trailer](#)



Chicken and the Egg

Sderot, Last Exit

Osvalde Lewat, Cameroon/France/Belgium, 2011, 80 min.
 This new documentary by French-Cameroonian journalist and filmmaker Osvalde Lewat is a high-risk attempt to portray the contradictions that arise among the multiple ethnicities and peoples in the Film School of Sderot, situated only two kilometers from the Gaza border in Southern Israel. Created with the mission of bringing peace through the ethical, ideological and artistic use of film as a language, the institution indeed cannot avoid becoming a microcosm of the geo-political landscape in which it is located. Like the region, the Film School is precariously weighted by the daily interactions and tensions between Jews, Muslims, Christians, Palestinians, Israelis, and constituents from the left-wing radicals as well as the ultrarationalists.
[Website](#)

Followed by a Q&A with Raphael Sigal and Avner Faingulernt

Raphael Sigal, after graduating from la Sorbonne, was appointed assistant to the cultural counselor at the French Embassy in Tel Aviv. During these two years he also taught literature at Tel Aviv University and he Hebrew University in Jerusalem. He is currently doing a Phd in the french department at NYU.

Thursday,
 May 3rd,
 7:30pm

WAR TOURISM

War Matador

Avner Faingulernt & Macabit Abramson, Israel, 2011, 70 min.
 During the war in Gaza in January 2009, two courageous Israeli directors brought their cameras to shoot events, subjects, alternative perspectives and visuals of the war along the common border with Gaza. The bombing is filmed from a distance, out-of-focus, at arm's length, just as the visiting Israeli tourists viewed it. These visiting groups of spectators from different parts of Israel come to see the events of the war like the attendants of a bullfight. The muffled impacts of the bombs in the distance heighten attention to the spoken words of the tourists as well as the communities that live intimately with the violence of this area. The words heard are blunt, seemingly lacking all compassion. This film is a disturbing essay about war and tourism, an absurd and surreal relationship.
[Trailer](#)



War Matador



Finalist: International Competition: TRT 2012 Documentary Awards - Turkey [May 2012]
"Krakow Documentary Premiere": Krakow Film Festival - Poland 2012 [May 2012]
LIDF London International Documentary Film Festival - U.K. [May 2012]
CWFF Cape Winelands Film Festival - South Africa 2012 [March 2012]
Jewish Motifs International Film Festival - Poland 2012 [April 2012]
Filmisreal! Festival - The Netherlands 2012

Followed by a Q&A with Maysles Cinema founder and director Albert Maysles, Sami Shalom Chetrit and Avner Faingulernt

ABOUT THE SPEAKERS:

Sami Shalom Chetrit, PhD, scholar of Hebrew culture, poet and documentary filmmaker. Born in Morocco, raised an educated in Israel, Studied at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and Columbia University in New York. Published numerous books and articles on Israeli society and culture and the Israeli occupation. Also published poetry and prose and produced two documentary films. He now lives in NYC and teaches at Queens College CUNY.

Albert Maysles is recognized as a pioneer of "direct cinema," the distinctly American version of French "cinema verité." He earned his distinguished reputation by being the first to make non-fiction feature films- films in which the drama of human life unfolds as is, without scripts, sets, or narration. Born in Boston of Jewish immigrants from Eastern Europe, Albert received his B.A. at Syracuse and his M.A. at Boston University where he taught Psychology for three years. He made the transition from Psychology to film in the summer of 1955 by taking a 16mm camera to Russia to film patients at several mental hospitals. His films became cult classics. *Salesman* (1968), *Gimme Shelter* (1970) is the dazzling portrait of Mick Jagger and the Rolling Stones on their American tour which culminated in a killing at the notorious concert at Altamont. *Grey Gardens* (1976) captures on film the haunting relationship of the Beales, a mother and daughter living secluded in a decaying East Hampton mansion.

343 Malcolm X Boulevard / Lenox Avenue (between 127th and 128th Streets)
 Suggested Admission: \$10 (unless otherwise noted). The box office is open 12 - 6pm Monday - Friday and 1 hour before all showtimes till event end.

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