



ISRAEL FILM CENTER

The JCC in Manhattan The Samuel Priest Rose Building 334 Amsterdam Ave at 76th St

## Israel Film Center Newsletter #6 January 2011

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## A Year in Israeli Cinema

2010 introduced an exceptionally diverse slate of Israeli films that earned acclaim at some of the most prestigious stages in the world.

The year kicked off with an award for the documentary [A FILM UNFINISHED](#) at the Sundance Film Festival; [THE DESCENT](#), by Shai Miedzinski taking the Silver Bear Award at the Berlinale International Film Festival, and Yaron Shani and Scandar Copti's crime drama [AJAMI](#) being nominated for the Oscars for Best Foreign Language Feature Film, marking the third year in a row that Israel has received an Oscar nod in this category, and Israel's ninth nomination overall.

The first film by 33-year-old Israeli experimental film director Avishai Sivan, [THE WANDERER](#), represented Israel in Cannes, and later in the year both the Venice International Film Festival and the Toronto Film Festival included an impressive selection of Israeli cinema - Eitan Zur's [NAOMI](#) and Julian Schnabel's [MIRAL](#) in the first, and [THE HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGER](#), [THE MATCHMAKER](#), and [PRECIOUS LIFE](#) in the latter.

Additional films which premiered in Israel, but not yet introduced to the international markets are [INFILTRATION](#), by acclaimed director Dover Kosashvil, [INTIMATE GRAMMAR](#), by Nir Bergman, Israeli indie [JE T'AIME, I LOVE YOU TERMINAL](#) by Dani Menkin, and [THE FLOOD](#) by Guy Nattiv, starring Ronit Elkabetz and Michael Moshonov.

Two notable documentaries from the 2010 Jerusalem International Film Festival are [77 STEPS](#) by Ibtisam Mara'ana, who reveals her personal journey and love story on screen in an honest and moving way; and [REVOLUTION 101](#), a unique film which follows the film director and his producer and their struggle to restore the public in Israeli "public broadcasting."

Late in 2010 it was announced that *Precious Life*, by journalist/documentarian Shlomi Eldar, made it to the Oscar's shortlist in the Best Documentary Category. This announcement marked the beginning of a much anticipated year for Israeli cinema. In a week it will be revealed whether the film is in the final five nominees, and whether *Intimate Grammar*, which won best feature film award in the Israeli Academy Awards and therefore is Israel's submission for the Oscars, will join the list.

Major festivals, Sundance and Berlin announced their official selections for this year to include [RESTORATION](#) by Yossi Madmoni, starring Sasson Gabbay in Sundance; and [LIPSTIKKA](#) by Jonathan Segall, along with [THE QUEEN HAS NO CROWN](#) by Berlin veteran Tomer Heymann, and Guy Nattiv's [THE FLOOD](#) in Berlin.

More to come in 2011 are long awaited new films by filmmakers Eran Kolirin ([The Band's Visit](#)) and Joseph Cedar ([Beaufort](#), [Campfire](#)). After *The Band's Visit* huge global success, Kolirin is back with [EXCHANGE](#), a film starring first-time movie actor Rotem Keinan. The film's mysterious synopsis describes a moment in time when a man returns to his home in an unusual time, to find an estranged, unfamiliar place.

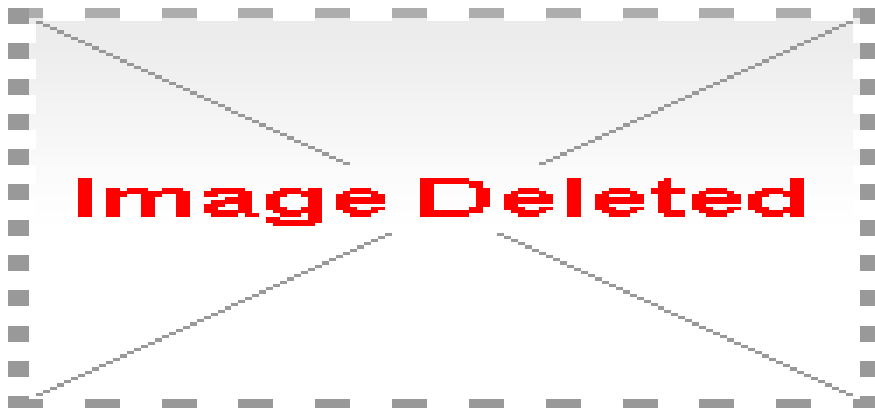
Joseph Cedar's [FOOTNOTE](#) promises to be a humble drama, telling the story of two professors, father and son, competing with each for an important national award. The film will star Lior Ashkenazi (*Late Marriage*) and Israeli stage & TV icon Shlomo Bar Aba.



## Israeli Films at the NY Jewish Film Festival

The NY Jewish Film Festival celebrates its 20th anniversary from January 12th through the 27th, with an impressive slate of Israeli films, including *The Human Resources Manager* by Eran Riklis, [AS LILITH](#) by Eitan Harris, and documentaries *Precious Life* by Shlomi Eldar; [EICHMANN'S END: LOVE, BETRAYAL, DEATH](#) by Raymond Ley; [BLACK BUS](#) by Anat Zuria, [SIXTY AND THE CITY](#) by Nilli Tal and [YOLANDE](#) by Dan Wolman.

The JCC in Manhattan, in partnership with the NY Jewish Film Festival, presented Lisa Gossels' *My So Called Enemy*.



## Restoration at the Sundance Film Festival

New Israeli film will be presented this month in Park City, UT at The Sundance Film Festival: [RESTORATION](#) by Yossi Madmoni, telling the story of akov Fidelman (played by Sasson Gabbay), who after his longtime business partner dies, discovers that his antique furniture-restoration shop is in grave financial difficulty. He's forced to deal with his estranged son, Noah, a lawyer, who, seeing no hope for the failing store, proposes building apartments above it. One day Fidelman's new apprentice, Anton, finds a neglected piano in the workshop: an 1882 Steinway that, given a new baseboard, would be worth enough to save the store.



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**UPCOMING SCREENINGS AT THE  
ISRAEL FILM CENTER**

**at The Jewish Community Center in Manhattan**

**Bena: TONIGHT, 7:30pm**

[More Information & Tickets](#)

**Matchmaker - Tues, Feb 1, 7:30pm**

[More Information & Tickets](#)

**Wandering Eyes - Sat, Feb 5, 7pm** (plays as part of  
the [ReelAbilities Film Festival](#))

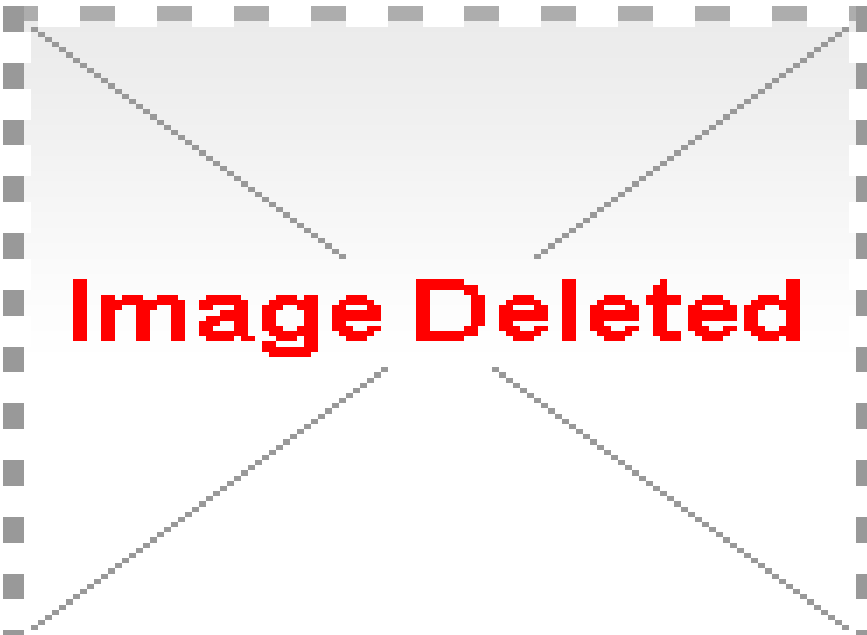
[More Information & Tickets](#)

**Save The Date**

**Jewish Film Presenters Network  
Conference: June 5-6 at The JCC in  
Manhattan**

We are proud to announce that The Israel Film Center at The JCC in Manhattan will be hosting a conference for Jewish film presenters in NYC to explore changes and developments in the field of film presentation and to better connect film festivals to share resources, ideas, and keep market standards.

The conference will take place June 5-6, 2011. For more information and to register, please send us an email at [jfilmnetwork@gmail.com](mailto:jfilmnetwork@gmail.com)



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## **Growing Up At The Movies - Israeli Movie Poster Exhibit**

Parts of this exhibit will be available for touring at other centers in the US. For information on booking this tour for your center, please contact us at [info@israelfilmcenter.org](mailto:info@israelfilmcenter.org).

Come see the exciting development of Israel's film industry with movie posters from the pre-state era up through contemporary blockbusters! Images from the early days of emerging Israeli cinema, to the growth of the 1970's and the boom of the last decade create a vibrant visual display of one of Israel's most popular cultural exports.

Take the cell-phone guided tour to learn more and visit the Israel Film Center viewing station in the gallery to watch movie clips!

*All posters are for sale. [Click here for more info](#)*



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*A beneficiary of UJA-Federation. Dietary laws observed.*



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