The Jewish Museum and the Film Society of Lincoln Center are delighted to continue their partnership to bring you the 28th annual New York Jewish Film Festival, presenting films from around the world that explore the diversity of Jewish experience.

This year’s Festival presents a wonderful lineup of narratives, documentaries, and shorts, from restored classics to world, U.S., and N.Y. premieres.

Featuring *Promise at Dawn*, the epic drama starring Charlotte Gainsbourg and Pierre Niney; the thrilling Israeli miniseries *Autonomies*; and *Fig Tree*, a touching coming-of-age story set during the Ethiopian Civil War; the 2019 Festival includes a wide range of selections that will enthrall film lovers of all backgrounds.

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**SCHEDULE**

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<tr>
<th>WED, JAN 9</th>
<th>THU, JAN 10</th>
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<tr>
<td>12:30 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Toman*</td>
<td>Joseph Pulitzer: Voice of the People*</td>
<td>The Light of Hope*</td>
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<tr>
<td>4 pm</td>
<td>Promise at Dawn</td>
<td>Who Will Write Our History*</td>
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<td>Brussels Transit</td>
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<td>Promise at Dawn</td>
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<td>A Tramway in Jerusalem*</td>
<td>The Ancient Law*</td>
<td>Mohamed and Anna: In Plain Sight* preceded by</td>
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<td>9:30 pm</td>
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<td>Happiness of the World</td>
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<td>1 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Redemption*</td>
<td>Chasing Portraits*</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:45 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Seder Masochism*</td>
<td>Etgar Keret: Based on a True Story* preceded by Torch</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Chasing Portraits*</td>
<td>Autonomies* presented with intermission (Centerpiece)</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:15 pm</td>
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<td>Happiness of the World</td>
<td>A Fortunate Man* (Closing Night)</td>
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**TICKET INFO**

**ON SALE DATES**

- **Members:** December 20
- **General:** December 27

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**FREE SCREENINGS**

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- *Fig Tree*
- *Autonomies*
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OPENING NIGHT

**N.Y. PREMIERE**

**Promise at Dawn**
Eric Barbier, France, 2017, 131 min.
French with English subtitles

The great Jewish novelist Romain Gary, also known by the pen name Emile Ajar, was one of France’s most prolific and popular writers of the mid-20th century, and the only person to win the Prix Goncourt twice. His autobiographical novel *Promise at Dawn* is a loose memoir, recounting his impoverished childhood in Poland, his time as a fighter pilot in WWII, early relationships in the south of France, and most of all the unyielding love between him and his single mother. The book’s drama and adventure lend themselves naturally to the big screen; this adaptation by Eric Barbier, starring Charlotte Gainsbourg and Pierre Niney, is a rollicking journey through a life richly lived.

**WED, JAN 9, 7:30 PM**
**THU, JAN 10, 3 PM**

**CENTERPIECE**

**U.S. PREMIERE**

**Autonomies**
Yehonatan Indursky, Israel, 2018, 210 min.
Hebrew and Yiddish with English subtitles

Set in an alternate present where the state is brutally divided between the secular capital of Tel Aviv and a Jerusalem governed by an ultra-Orthodox “Haredi Autonomy,” this dystopian thriller tells the story of a wheeler-dealer who smuggles contraband between the two regions and a little girl at the center of a secular-Orthodox custody battle. Israel is experiencing a golden age of episodic television, turning out some of the finest narrative storytelling in any medium, and we’ll screen all five episodes for a proper binge. *Autonomies* shows why Israel is fertile ground for powerful fiction: the series is a boiling cauldron of the issues of identity, religion, politics, and personal freedom that define life in the country today.

**WED, JAN 16, 6 PM**
(presented with intermission)

**Master Class with Yehonatan Indursky**

**SUN, JAN 20, 4 PM**
Free and Open to the Public

Join Yehonatan Indursky, writer and director of NYJFF Centerpiece selection *Autonomies*, for a master class on writing, directing, and producing for television and film. A writer and director of multiple films and television series (such as *Shtisel*), which won 11 awards from the Israeli Academy of Television including Best Screenplay), Indursky will focus on the difference between creating for film and television, and the process behind *Autonomies*. 

**Tickets:** nyjff.org
CLOSING NIGHT

N.Y. PREMIERE
A Fortunate Man
Bille August, Denmark, 2018, 162 min.
Danish with English subtitles

A gifted but self-destructive young man leaves his suffocating Lutheran upbringing in the country for the metropolitan Copenhagen of the 1880s. An engineer with progressive ideas, he is welcomed by a wealthy Jewish family and insinuates himself into their opulent milieu, embarking on a journey of personal and professional ambition that teeters on the razor’s edge between triumph and catastrophe.

TUE, JAN 22, 8 PM

MAIN SLATE FILMS

The Ancient Law
Ewald André Dupont, Germany, 1923, 135 min.
Silent (with English intertitles)
SUN, JAN 13, 12:30 PM

In a shtetl in Galicia, the son of a rabbi gets a bug for acting and is swept into a glamorous lifestyle, much to the chagrin of his more traditional father. Featuring a new score and live accompaniment by pianist Donald Sosin and klezmer violinist Alicia Svigals.

N.Y. PREMIERE
Black Honey: The Life & Poetry of Avraham Sutzkever
Uri Barbash, Israel, 2018, 76 min. Hebrew, English, and Yiddish with English subtitles
TUE, JAN 15, 1 & 6 PM

Preceded By

N.Y. PREMIERE
Triptych
Katia Lom, U.K., 2018, 8 min. English

The Russian-born poet Avraham Sutzkever wrote in Yiddish with wit and vitality through the Holocaust, saved hundreds of Jewish manuscripts from destruction, and testified at the Nuremberg trials. His story is a life-affirming exemplar of 20th century Jewish experience.

Using live action, animation, vintage artifacts, and photographs, director Katia Lom explores her family’s history—including their escape from Czechoslovakia in 1951.
**U.S. PREMIERE OF THE RESTORATION**

**Brussels Transit**  
Samy Szlingerbaum, Belgium, 1980, 80 min.  
Yiddish and French with English subtitles  
**MON, JAN 21, 3 PM**

In one of the first postwar films in Yiddish, director Samy Szlingerbaum masterfully weaves together the dramatic story of his parents’ search for a home and haunting footage of postwar Brussels to explore the marginality of young Holocaust survivors in Europe after WWII.

**Camera Obscura**  
Maria Victoria Menis, Argentina, 2008, 86 min.  
Spanish and Yiddish with English subtitles  
**TUE, JAN 15, 3:30 & 8:30 PM**

Shot on location in the lush forests, lagoons, and rivers of Buenos Aires province in a wondrous mélange of visual styles, *Camera Obscura* tells the story of an immigrant woman whose encounter with an itinerant photographer reveals a sense of self she never knew.

**N.Y. PREMIERE OF THE RESTORATION**

**The City Without Jews**  
Hans Karl Breslauer, Austria, 1924, 91 min.  
Silent (with English Intertitles)  
**SUN, JAN 20, 12:30 PM**

This 1924 silent masterpiece is one of few surviving Austrian Expressionist films and a chilling premonition of the Holocaust. Based on Hugo Bettauer’s dystopian novel of the same name, it follows the rise of the Christian Social Party, which orders all Jews to evacuate Austria.

**Dear Fredy**  
Rubi Gat, Israel, 2017, 74 min. Hebrew, Czech, and English with English subtitles  
**SUN, JAN 20, 2:45 PM**

Preceded By

**Lon**  
Nina Landau, Belgium, 2018, 7 min.  
Dutch with English subtitles

This documentary tells the story of Fredy Hirsch, a remarkable openly gay German Jew who fled to the Czech Republic when the Nuremberg Laws were passed, became head of the youth department in the Ghetto Terezin, and set up a daycare center in his final, tragic days in Auschwitz.

**Echo**  
Amikam Kovner & Assaf Snir  
Israel, 2018, 98 min. Hebrew with English subtitles  
**SAT, JAN 12 9:30 PM**

In this beautifully acted drama starring Yael Abecassis and Yoram Toledano, a man suspects his wife of infidelity and records her phone conversations. While he obsessively listens, she tragically dies in a car crash and the recordings become an investigation into a life he thought he knew.

**N.Y. PREMIERE**

**Chasing Portraits**  
Elizabeth Rynecki, USA/Canada/Israel/Poland, 2018, 78 min. English and Polish with English subtitles  
**MON, JAN 14, 6 PM**  
**WED, JAN 16, 1 PM**

After the Nazis invaded Poland in 1939, artist Moshe Rynecki left his collection of more than 800 paintings and sculptures with friends around Warsaw for safekeeping. But after his death in Majdanek, his work was dispersed. This documentary tells the compelling story of his great-granddaughter Elizabeth’s quest to uncover the story of his extraordinary collection.

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It’s the summer of 1939 and Rose, a beautiful young Jewish woman, has three aggressive suitors, a Pole, a Silesian, and a German in an apartment building on the Polish-German border. This enchanting film follows them in their quixotic and comic days leading up to WWII.

Joseph Pulitzer began as a penniless Jewish immigrant from Hungary and grew into one of America’s most admired and feared media figures. This revelatory documentary tells the story of the man behind the prize, who spoke of “fake news” and the importance of freedom of the press over a century ago. His newspaper The New York World spoke to an unprecedented number of readers and maintained powerful journalistic ideals through its ascent.

Panel Discussion: Pulitzer’s World: The Role of the Media In a Fake News Universe
SUN, JAN 13, 4:30 PM
Presented in conjunction with the NYJFF Main Slate selection Joseph Pulitzer: Voice of the People. Join Jami Floyd, Host of “All Things Considered” on WNYC; Adam Moss, Editor-in-Chief of New York magazine; filmmaker Oren Rudavsky, and Jodi Rudoren, Associate Managing Editor, The New York Times for a multifaceted conversation about press issues that percolate through the film, such as first amendment rights and limits; the future of investigative reporting; crusading journalism and “click-bait” sensationalism; and the relationship between the first page and the editorial page.

The Light of Hope is based on the true story of Elisabeth Eidenbenz, director of the Elne maternity home. During WWII, Eidenbenz and her female co-workers saved the lives of 600 infants by providing humane conditions for pregnant women fleeing Vichy refugee camps.
U.S. PREMIERE

Life According to Agfa
Assi Dayan, Israel, 1992, 100 min.
Hebrew with English subtitles
SAT, JAN 19, 9:15 PM
Preceded By

N.Y. PREMIERE

Travelogue Tel Aviv
Samuel Patthey, Switzerland, 2017, 6 min.

In this touchstone of Israeli cinema, an assortment of Tel Aviv citizenry—Jews, Arabs, kibbutzniks, city-dwellers, and soldiers—gather in a bar to play out a series of bitter and ultimately tragic dramas over the course of one night.

A Swiss art student studying abroad captures Tel Avivi’s vitality and boldness in this vibrant, impressionistic animation.

U.S. PREMIERE

Mack the Knife: Brecht’s Threepenny Film
Joachim Lang, Germany, 2018, 130 min.
German with English subtitles
SUN, JAN 20, 8 PM

After the premiere of Bertolt Brecht, Elisabeth Hauptmann, and Kurt Weill’s Threepenny Opera in 1928, the work seemed destined for the silver screen. Brecht sought to make a socially conscious film, but the studio wanted a crowd pleaser. This fantastical and theatrical satire dramatizes his valiant attempt to adapt his opera to the screen.

U.S. PREMIERE

Mohamed and Anna: In Plain Sight
Taliya Finkel, Germany/Israel, 2017, 58 min. English
MON, JAN 21, 1 PM
TUE, JAN 22, 5:45 PM
Preceded By

U.S. PREMIERE

Five Years After the War
Samuel Albaric & Martin Wiklund, France, 2017, 17 min. French with English subtitles

During WWII, Mohamed Helmy, an Egyptian doctor living in Berlin, saved a Jewish woman from capture by the Nazis by disguising her as a Muslim woman. This astounding documentary uncovers the many extraordinary maneuvers and deceptions he took to save her life, at great risk to his own.

This animated short brings to explosive, exuberant life the wild fantasies of a Parisian man—the son of an absent Iraqi father and a Jewish mother—who is confounded by the modern world and trying to find his place in it.

WORLD PREMIERE

Pat Steir: Artist
Veronica Gonzalez Peña
USA, 2018, 74 min. English
SAT, JAN 19, 7 PM

A warmly intimate portrait of the groundbreaking painter and feminist Pat Steir, whose life and practice have been enlivened for half a century by her deep friendships and alliances with the most influential artists and poets of her generation.

N.Y. PREMIERE

Redemption
Joseph Madmony & Boaz Yehonatan Yacov
Israel, 2018, 104 min.
Hebrew with English subtitles
SUN, JAN 13, 6:15 PM
MON, JAN 14, 1 PM

Once the front man of a popular rock band, Menachem is now deeply religious. When his six-year-old daughter is diagnosed with cancer, he gets the band back together for a reunion tour to pay the bills.

N.Y. PREMIERE

Seder Masochism
Nina Paley, USA, 2018, 78 min.
English, French, Bulgarian, Hebrew, and Aramaic with English subtitles
SUN, JAN 13, 9 PM
MON, JAN 14, 3:45 PM

Animator Nina Paley brings us a wildly playful and imaginative retelling of the Book of Exodus in musical form. The Burning Bush does a rendition of Louis Armstrong and Pharaoh sings “I Will Survive,” among other antics.

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TICKETS: NYJFF.ORG
A young tobacco shop apprentice in Nazi occupied Vienna falls in love with a music hall dancer and turns to Sigmund Freud, a regular customer and unlikely new friend, for advice in this beautifully realized wartime drama starring Bruno Ganz as Sigmund Freud.

Zdenek Toman is a controversial and singular character in modern Czech politics. Toman tells the story of the unscrupulous careerist and politician who was also the unlikely savior of thousands of Jewish refugees after WWII.

A series of poignant and humorous encounters along the Light Rail Red Line, which connects Jerusalem from east to west from Palestinian to Israeli neighborhoods, reveal the city’s diverse mosaic of humanity and offer a kernel of hope for mutual understanding. With Mathieu Amalric.

When the Nazis created the Warsaw Ghetto, a group of scholars, journalists, and community leaders, led by historian Emanuel Ringelblum, conducted a secret effort to document the fate of the 450,000 Jews sealed within. These testimonies comprise perhaps the most important archive of original material compiled by Jews during the Holocaust.

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The New York Times
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The New York Jewish Film Festival is made possible by the Martin and Doris Payson Fund for Film and Media.

Generous support is also provided by Wendy Fisher and Dennis Goodman, Sara and Axel Schupf, The Liman Foundation, Louise and Frank Ring, an anonymous gift, the Ike, Molly and Steven Elias Foundation, Amy and Howard Rubenstein, Robin and Danny Greenspun, Steven and Sheira Schacter, and through public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature and the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with City Council.

The Film Society of Lincoln Center receives generous support from the below sponsors.

The Film Society of Lincoln Center receives additional support for the New York Jewish Film Festival from the Jack & Pearl Resnick Foundation.

This year’s New York Jewish Film Festival was selected by Rachel Chanoff, Director, THE OFFICE performing arts + film; Gabriel Grossman, Coordinator, New York Jewish Film Festival/the Jewish Museum; Miriam Niedergang, short film curatorial consultant; and Aviva Weintraub, Associate Curator, the Jewish Museum and Director, New York Jewish Film Festival; with Dennis Lim, Director of Programming, Film Society of Lincoln Center, as adviser.

Nicola Galliner, Jewish Film Festival Berlin & Brandenburg; Béatrice Godlewicz, Institute of Audiovisual Jewish Memory, Brussels; Eric Goldman, Ergo Media; Stuart Hands, Toronto Jewish Film Festival; Annette Insdorf, Columbia University; Judy Ironside, UK Jewish Film Festival; Marlene Josephs, Volunteer; Linda Lipson, Volunteer; Nicola Mazzanti, Royal Film Archive of Belgium; Joshua Moore, San Francisco Jewish Film Festival; Richard Peña, Columbia University; Ben Rubin, Intern; Eve Sicular, Melissa Tricopa, Intern

The Jewish Museum is under the auspices of The Jewish Theological Seminary.