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9th Annual Israel Film Center Festival Announces In-Person and Virtual Lineup

Tickets on Sale Now; Festival Runs June 15–29

New York, NY (May 24, 2021) -- New York's leading Israeli film festival is celebrating its 9th edition this June with a powerful lineup of award-winning and cutting-edge films from Israel. Featuring in-person rooftop and virtual screenings, and showcasing the best new films from Israel's booming film industry, the festival will run from June 15–29, 2021. Visit israelfilmcenter.org/festival for more information and to purchase tickets.

The festival's **Opening Night** selection will be "**Sublet**," directed by **Eytan Fox** ("Yossi & Jagger," "Walk on Water"), which follows Michael (played by Tony Award winner **John Benjamin Hickey**), a *New York Times* travel writer who journeys to Tel Aviv after suffering a tragedy. When he sublets an apartment from Tomer, a young film student, he finds himself drawn into the life of the city. "**Sublet**" screens Tuesday, June 15 at 8 p.m. on the JCC's Meyerson Family Roof Terrace.

"Israeli productions have become a leading export and one of the most intriguing industries in the international scene," said **Isaac Zablocki, Israel Film Center Festival director and founder**. "These films give a nuanced picture with a focus on the human experience in the region and allow us to see the day-to-day life beyond the headlines."

9th ANNUAL ISRAEL FILM CENTER FESTIVAL LINEUP:

Sublet

Dir. Eytan Fox
(Israel, 2020, 89 min)

June 15, 8 p.m.: Opening Night on the JCC's Meyerson Family Roof Terrace, in person

Following a personal tragedy, Michael, a travel columnist for *The New York Times*, goes to Tel Aviv to write. His grief has caused problems between him and his husband, leading him to want to do his research and go home. But when he sublets an apartment from Tomer, a young film student, he finds himself drawn into the life of the city. The unlikely and intense bond they form transforms their lives in unexpected ways.

Here We Are

Dir. Nir Bergman
(Israel, 2020, 92 min)
Streaming June 15–29

Living together in a gentle routine, Aharon is devoted to raising his autistic son, Uri, away from interaction with the outside world. But as Uri becomes a young adult, they realize it's time for him to

live in a supervised home. While on their way to the institution, Aharon decides to run away with his son to avoid the separation. But which one of them is the one afraid to let go?

Kiss Me Kosher

Dir. Shirel Peleg
(Israel, 2021, 101 min)
Streaming June 15–29

A subversive love story about clashing cultures and families, “Kiss Me Kosher” is a romantic misadventure crossing all borders. When two generations of Israeli women fall for a German woman and a Palestinian man, chaos follows. What happens when lovers don't fit together but do belong together?

Honeymoon

Dir. Talya Lavie
(Israel, 2020, 90 min)
June 22, 8 p.m.: Screening on the JCC's Meyerson Family Roof Terrace, in person
Streaming June 22–29

From the breakthrough director of “Zero Motivation” comes “Honeymoon,” a romantic comedy set over the course of one night in Jerusalem. A bride and groom arrive at a lavish hotel suite after their wedding. What should have been a romantic night together turns into a fight that develops into a dazed urban journey, making them confront past loves, repressed doubts, and the lives they have left behind.

Asia

Dir. Ruthy Pribar
(Israel, 2020, 85 min)
Streaming June 25–July 9

Young single mother Asia (Alena Yiv) hides nothing about her work-hard, play-hard lifestyle, and expects the same openness and honesty from her teenage daughter Vika (Shira Haas). But when Vika's health declines, her need for independence and romantic exploration become paramount, and Asia realizes she must change her ways to allow her daughter to live her own life.

About the Israel Film Center

The Israel Film Center of the Marlene Meyerson JCC Manhattan is the leading resource for Israeli films in America, with the goal of expanding Israel's emerging film industry and promoting Israeli culture in America. The center, a program of The Carole Zabar Center for Film, serves as an exhibitor, promoter, educator, funder, distributor, network organizer, advisor, and festival producer, and includes a viewing library and online database of Israeli cinema and the leading Israeli film streaming site.

About the Marlene Meyerson JCC Manhattan

Together with its community, the Marlene Meyerson JCC Manhattan creates opportunities for people to connect, grow, and learn within an ever-changing Jewish landscape. Located on 76th Street and Amsterdam Avenue, the JCC is a vibrant non-profit community center on the Upper West Side. It also presents a robust slate of virtual programming, serving an even wider community. The cornerstone of progressive programming in Manhattan, the JCC serves over 55,000 people annually through 1,200 programs each season that educate, inspire, and transform participants' minds, bodies, and spirits. Since its inception, the JCC has been committed to serving the community by offering programs, classes, and events that reach beyond neighborhood boundaries, reaching people at all stages of their lives. Learn more at mmjccm.org

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