



HIGHLAND PARK
CONSERVATIVE TEMPLE
Congregation Anshe Emeth

2022 - 2023 Jewish Film Series

Golden Voices



Israel, 2019, 88 min., in Russian and Hebrew with English subtitles

Raya and Victor Frenkel were the golden voices of Soviet film dubbing for decades. With the collapse of Soviet Union, they've made *aliyah* to Israel, just like hundreds of thousands of Soviet Jews. But Israel has no need for Russian-speaking dubbing artists. The couple's attempts to find new uses for their talent turn this new chapter of their life into an amusing, painful, and absurd experience.



Stream it at your convenience. Then join us Wednesday, Oct. 26 at 8:00 p.m. for an

update on the far-reaching impact of Soviet immigration on Israel

Lily Galili is a senior Israeli journalist and lecturer focusing on all aspects of Israeli society and immigration to Israel. She is co-author of *The Million That Changed the Middle East*, a comprehensive book about post-Soviet immigration to Israel. Formerly with *Haaretz* daily, she now contributes to several media outlets.

- 1 Visit [TinyURL.com/VOICES-HPCT](https://www.tinyurl.com/VOICES-HPCT) to see the trailer and stream the film
- 2 Register for the Oct. 26 talk at [TinyURL.com/VoicesTalk](https://www.tinyurl.com/VoicesTalk)
- 3 Consider a \$5 donation at [TinyURL.com/SeriesDonate](https://www.tinyurl.com/SeriesDonate)

The Dead of Jaffa



Israel, 2019, 96 min, in Arabic and Hebrew with English subtitles

Three children from the West Bank are smuggled into Israel, arriving at the doorstep of George and Rita's house in Jaffa. Their mother is dead, and their father is serving a life sentence. Because they are Israeli Arabs, George is afraid that hiding illegal aliens will endanger Rita and himself. Having no children of her own, Rita believes the arrival of these children could give her life meaning. Nearby, an English director is making a movie about his parents' love affair in 1947 when they served in the British army in Palestine. When George is invited to play a Palestinian doctor in the film the two stories intertwine and tensions erupt.



Stream it at your convenience. Then join us Wednesday, Dec. 7 at 8:00 p.m. to discuss the film with Olga Gershenson

Olga Gershenson is Professor of Judaic and Near Eastern Studies and of Film Studies at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. She has published widely on Israeli cinema and theater and is currently writing a book about Israeli horror films. Her review and analysis of *The Dead of Jaffa* appeared in *The Forward*.

Apples and Oranges



Israel, 2021, 80 min

In the swinging 60s, the countercultural generation wanted new travel experiences and a taste of communal life. What began as a trickle became a flood as travel agencies sold "kibbutz volunteering" packages after the Six-Day War. But the volunteers brought with them sex, drugs, and rock 'n' roll, dramatically changing kibbutz culture. As blonde and blue-eyed Europeans, they offered a tempting contrast to dark-haired Israelis. While many kibbutzniks married volunteers and left for their spouses' home countries, some volunteers converted, learned Hebrew, and even stayed on after their Israeli partners departed.



Stream it at your convenience. Then join us Wednesday, January 11 at 8:00 p.m. for a chat with the film's director.

Yoav Brill is an animator, filmmaker and musician. He grew up on *Be'eri*, a kibbutz near the Gaza border. One of his uncles who lives on the kibbutz married a volunteer from England who is now a full-fledged kibbutz member. His animated film *Ishihara* won first prize in the Haifa Film Festival. *Hora*, a short animated documentary, won first prize in the Tel Aviv Animation Festival.

Sublet



Israel, 2020, 90 min

Michael, a travel columnist for *The New York Times* goes on assignment to Tel Aviv. Still grieving from a recent loss that has caused problems between his husband and himself, he just wants to complete his work and return home. But when Michael sublets an apartment from Tomer, a young film student, he finds himself drawn into the life of the vibrant Israeli city. His intense bond with Tomer transforms both their lives in unexpected ways. An exploration of queer Jewish worldviews across generations and nations..



Stream it at your convenience. Then join us Wednesday, Jan. 25 at 8:00 p.m. to discuss the film and the current status of LGBTQ in Israel

Dr. Amit Kama has been active in various LGBT organizations since 1982 and in the 1990s was the executive director of Israel's national LGBT organization. He is chairman of the Gender and Sexuality Committee of Israel's Academy of the Hebrew Language and co-chairman of the LGBT research forum in the kibbutz movement. He has published numerous scholarly articles and six books, including the first book in Hebrew about gay men. Amit is currently a senior lecturer at the Department of Communication, Emek Yezreel College.

Promised Lands



Israel, 2021, 81 min, in Hebrew with English subtitles

40-year-old filmmaker Yael Reuveny returns to Israel to reunite with former classmates from 1988, who were all coming of age as Israel turned 40. They were among the first Jews born in the state of Israel, a dream come true for the generations before them. From the timid kid who grew up to be a techno DJ, to the boy who became a career officer in the military, Yael's former schoolmates all have one thing in common: they all love their birthplace in their own way, even when they don't see themselves represented by its political classes. Amid air-raid sirens and uncertainty, we laugh, cry and share the hopes and dreams of an eclectic group of people who grew up to represent many facets of a country full of contradictions.



Stream it at your convenience. Then join us Wednesday, Feb. 8 at 8:00 p.m. for a chat with the film's director.

Born and raised in Israel, Yael Reuveny studied at the Sam Spiegel Film & Television School in Jerusalem and has been based in Berlin since 2005. Her 30-minute documentary *Tales of the Defeated*, won First Prize at the Jerusalem Film Festival. Her first full-length documentary *Farewell, Herr Schwarz*, won the Best Documentary Award at Haifa International Film Festival, was nominated for the Ofir, the Israeli Academy Award and won the Israeli Documentary Filmmakers Award. Yael lived in Highland Park for two years as a child while her father was doing his post doctorate at Rutgers.

Shalom Taiwan



Argentina, 2019, 82 min, in Spanish with English subtitles

Years ago, Rabbi Aaron secretly borrowed a large amount of money for his small Buenos Aires synagogue. Now that unpaid debt has caught up with him. Cornered and desperate, he tries a last-ditch effort by embarking on a trip to the Far East to secure donations. What follows is an unexpected journey that imparts values of community spirit, family, and hope.



Stream it at your convenience. Then join us Wednesday, Mar. 1 at 8:00 p.m. to hear about the Jewish community of Taiwan

Glenn Leibowitz is Director of Global Communications for the Jeffrey D. Schwartz & Na Tang [Jewish Taiwan Cultural Association](#), a non-profit organization devoted to promoting Jewish life, culture, and observance in Taiwan and across the world. A resident of Taiwan for the past 30 years, he has devoted the past decade to helping build the Taiwanese Jewish community.