Welcome

This year we celebrate the 11th year of the JCC Ames Amzalak Rochester Jewish Film Festival underwritten by Friendly’s. Born of the desire to bring Jewish themed film to Rochester, the birthplace of film, our Festival has turned into something we could never have imagined in 2001. With more than 65 donors supporting the Festival and nearly 6,000 people expected to attend this year, we look to year 11 with great excitement. In particular, we offer our deepest gratitude to Friendly’s for their 10th year of support. Thank you.

If you’ve never attended the Festival before, we extend an enthusiastic invitation to you. This year’s collection of films include an Oscar winning film (*STRANGERS NO MORE*), an Oscar nominated actor (*Jesse Eisenberg*), a Nobel Prize Winner (*Dr. Eric Kandel*) and a Baseball Hall of Famer (*Sandy Koufax*). There are 22 films in all – from 10 countries! Pick one or two, or more!

We’d love for you to discover what your Jewish film festival is all about.

As always, on behalf of the JCC and the RJFF committee, we thank you.

Elliot Fix
Chairperson

Andrea Miller
Director
## JULY 2011 FILM CALENDER

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**ADVANCE PURCHASE OF TICKETS IS ENCOURAGED.**

**YOUR TICKETS ONLINE AT RJFF.ORG!**

**QUESTIONS? CALL 585-461-2000**

### FESTIVAL TIPS

- **BUY**
- **ADVANCE PURCHASE OF TICKETS IS ENCOURAGED.**
- **YOURS TICKETS ONLINE AT RJFF.ORG!**
- **QUESTIONS? CALL 585-461-2000**

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Thank you!

visionary $10,000+:

executive producer $5,000+:

producer $2,500+:

Futerman Supporting Foundation:
Sara Futerman, Rina and Danny Chessin,
Daphne Futerman and Ira Jevotovsky,
and Eli and Peggy Futerman

William and Sheila Konar Foundation
in cooperation with Monroe Community College
Holocaust Genocide and Human Rights Project

Rubens Family Foundation

director $1,250+:

Class Action LLC/
Marc Frankel – Constable

Debby and Elliott Landsman

Marcia and Gary Stern
actor $350+ cont.:  
Helene and Bruce Newman  
Gabriela Rind  
Maxine and Dr. Gerald Rosen  
Professor Avi Seidmann and Raquel Ben Choam, M.D.  
Leonard and Simi Singer  
Linda and Sherwin Weinstein  
LPWolch, CPA's PC  

extra $200+:  
Ruth Cowing and David and Claire Creek  
Tamar and Elliot Fix  
Phyllis A. Harris  
Lisa and Michael Silverstein  
Michal and Dr. Oren Weiss  

gifts ($50+) directed toward the Sylvia and Philip Kowal Fund:  
Monica and Heath Gebell  
Bonnie Jackson  
Memorable Events Consulting  

in-kind support:  
MacKenzie-Childs  
Mann's Jewelers  

Special recognition to the WHEC-TV 10 producers for their generous assistance in the production of the 2011 Rochester Jewish Film Festival trailer.
In this quirky, seriocomic crowd-pleaser, a forlorn human resources manager discovers his own humanity while escorting the body of a suicide-bomb victim to her homeland. This adaptation of a story by celebrated Israeli novelist A.B. Yehoshua follows a motley convoy of characters who find themselves crossing a frozen post-Soviet landscape in their quest to return the body of a bakery co-worker who turns up dead. Returning the remains to the worker’s next of kin becomes trickier than expected for the HR manager who embarks on a mission to honor a woman he never knew and grows to admire her. Director Eran Riklis (THE LEMON TREE and SYRIAN BRIDE) poignantly approaches this story of social dislocation. Winner of 5 Israeli Academy Awards 2010 including Best Picture, Best Director and Best Screenplay

*CRITICS’ PICK* “Touching! ... Riklis is quickly becoming an international art-house force.” – New York Magazine

“Riveting! Mesmerizing! Stunning!”
– The Jerusalem Post

Generously underwritten by The William and Sheila Konar Foundation in cooperation with the Monroe Community College Holocaust, Genocide and Human Rights Project
OPENING NIGHT

Sunday, July 10, 7:30pm, Dryden Theatre
THE MATCHMAKER (Pa’am Hayiti)
Director: Avi Nesher, Israel, 2010, 112 min., Hebrew w/ subtitles, Narrative

In the summer of 1968, Haifa teenager Arik learns about life, love and loyalty when he gets a job working as a detective for the mysterious Yankele Bride, a Holocaust survivor-turned-matchmaker who promises to help clients get “what you need, not what you want.” Yankele works from a seedy office in the back of a movie theater run by Romanian dwarfs, also survivors, and introduces Arik to a new world built on the ruins of an old one. As Arik begins to learn the mysteries of the human heart, he falls for a girl who talks of free love, women’s rights and rock ‘n’ roll. THE MATCHMAKER is a lovely and wise portrait from the director of TURN LEFT AT THE END OF THE WORLD and is inspired, in part, by When Eagles Fly by Amir Gutfreund, the Israeli author of Our Holocaust.

Official Selection Toronto International Film Festival 2010
Nominated for 7 Israeli Academy Awards including Best Picture 2010 (Winner of 4 including Best Actor and Best Actress)

Film followed by the annual Friendly’s Ice Cream Party and complimentary access to George Eastman House!

Generously underwritten by Friendly’s
In the picturesque streets of Montmartre, three children wearing yellow stars play, oblivious to the darkness spreading over Nazi-occupied France. Their parents have put their trust in the Vichy Government, but soon one of the darkest moments in modern French history will unfold: the French government’s round up of more than 13,000 of Paris’s Jews, among them 4,000 children. Powered by a string of stars from Jean Reno (THE DA VINCI CODE) to Mélanie Laurent (INGLOURIOUS BASTERDS) THE ROUND UP brings to life a harrowing moment in recent history.

Winner of the 2011 Academy Award for Best Documentary Short Subject, STRANGERS NO MORE showcases the Bialik-Rogozin School in Tel Aviv, where no child is a stranger. Coming from 48 different countries, many of the school’s students have fled poverty, political adversity or even genocide. STRANGERS NO MORE tells several students’ moving and inspirational stories as they struggle to acclimate to life in a new land and slowly open up about their pasts.

Film preceded by:

I’M READY - Director: Esther Siton, Israel, 2009, 16 min., Hebrew w/ subtitles, Documentary
When a father’s memory begins to fail, his special relationship with his son begins to change.

MAMA L’CHAIM - Director: Elkan Spiller, US, 2008, 5 min., English, Documentary
At 61 years old, Chaim Lubelski dedicates his life to caring for his 95-year-old mother, a Holocaust survivor.

NOTE: An additional short film will be included in this presentation.

Generously underwritten by

The Futerman Supporting Foundation:
Sara Futerman, Rina and Danny Chessin, Daphne Futerman and Ira Jevotovsky, and Eli and Peggy Futerman
Coinciding with the 150th anniversary of the Civil War, JEWISH SOLDIERS IN BLUE AND GRAY is a unique film that reveals the little-known struggles facing American Jews in battle and on the homefront during the nation’s deadliest war. This documentary examines how allegiances during the War Between the States deeply split the country’s Jewish community, 7,000 of whom fought for the Union and 3,000 of whom joined the Confederate forces. The film exposes General Ulysses Grant’s controversial decision to expel all Jews from his territory, tells of President Lincoln’s Jewish doctor who served as a spy in the South, and celebrates the five Jewish Union soldiers who received the Congressional Medal of Honor. JEWISH SOLDIERS IN BLUE AND GRAY explores the sacrifices Jews made as they defended both the Union and the Confederacy.

Tuesday, July 12, 2:00pm, JCC Hart Theatre
JEWISH SOLDIERS IN BLUE AND GRAY
Director: Jonathan Gruber, USA, 2011, 86 min., English, Documentary

Inspired by Amos Oz’s memoir A Tale of Love and Darkness, this eloquent documentary opens a window into the mind of one of Israel’s most acclaimed and controversial authors. Often cited as a voice of reason and compassion as well as a staunch advocate of peaceful coexistence between Israelis and Palestinians, Oz has been at the forefront of Israel’s struggle for identity. Cameras follow Oz for 2 years, as he walks the hilltops of Jerusalem and the streets of Tel Aviv, travels on an international book tour, meets with readers and colleagues, and dispatches advice to political leaders. Throughout, he muses on the complicated meanings of Zionism and its imprint on his personal biography. AMOS OZ: THE NATURE OF DREAMS is a poetic and intimate portrait of an intellectual whose keen insight illuminates a nation forged in the crucible of a difficult, painful history.

Tuesday, July 12, 6:30pm, Little Theatre
AMOS OZ: THE NATURE OF DREAMS
Directors: Masha Zur Glozman and Yonathan Zur, Israel, 2009, 86 min., Hebrew/English w/ subtitles, Documentary

Generously underwritten by
Debby and Elliott Landsman
It's January 1991, on the eve of the first Gulf War, and Israel is bracing to withstand Saddam Hussein’s promised onslaught of chemical and biological warfare. Against this backdrop, Director Alain Tasma paints an intimate portrait of three couples struggling to cope as the nation tries not to panic. When Scud missiles threaten Jerusalem, one French couple's relationship begins to come apart, an Israeli couple prepares for childbirth, and a gay couple reunites. Adapted from Valerie Zenatti’s 2006 novel, ULTIMATUM features strong performances from Israeli movie star Lior Askenazi (WALK ON WATER, ELI AND BEN) as an expectant father, the stunning Miryam Zohar (SCHWARTZ DYNASTY) as a traumatized Holocaust survivor, and French heartthrob Gaspard Ulliel as a man broken at his core.

Warning: Sexual content/Nudity

Tuesday, July 12, 8:45pm, Little Theatre
ULTIMATUM (Ha’Hazakim Sordim)
Director: Alain Tasma, France/Israel/Italy, 2009, 102 min., French/Hebrew/English w/ subtitles, Narrative

A lavish romantic drama that charts the lives of three women from different backgrounds, who are forever changed when they immigrate to New Zealand as war brides. Eager to escape the gloom of post-war Holland, the three — Ada, a shy but sensual farm girl, the dogmatic Marjorie, and Esther, a Jewish fashion designer — become friends during the 1953 KLM flight that carried the brides to their waiting husbands. The women part ways on arrival, but chance meetings result in love affairs, betrayal and impenetrable bonds. BRIDE FLIGHT is a bit-tersweet tale of love, hope and expectations.

AUDIENCE FAVORITE: Rehoboth Beach, Newport Beach and Scottsdale film festivals and at the Palm Beach Jewish Film Festival.

Warning: Sexual content/Nudity

Wednesday, July 13, 6pm, Little theatre
BRIDE FLIGHT
Director: Ben Sombogaart, Luxembourg/Netherlands, 2008, 130 min., Dutch/English w/ subtitles, Narrative
Haunting songs from the Lodz Ghetto, performed by Klezmer supergroup Brave Old World, serve as the backdrop to David Kaufman’s definitive new film about the “first and last ghetto” in Poland. The film consists of chilling narrative, stirring concert performances, unforgettable photographs and extensive interviews with survivors from Lodz. The film focuses on the lives of two historical figures: the ghetto’s beloved and popular street-singer, Yankele Herszkowicz, and the Nazi-appointed Jewish leader of the ghetto, Chaim Rumkowski. David Kaufman’s documentary shares the remarkable story of Poland’s second largest ghetto by focusing on Herszkowicz, an amazing troubador.

Generously underwritten by

Center for Holocaust Awareness and Information (CHAI)
Justice, justice shall you pursue …
(Deuteronomy 16:18-20)

CRIME AFTER CRIME details the legal battle to free Debbie Peagler, an incarcerated victim of domestic violence. More than 26 years in prison could not crush the spirit of this determined African-American woman, despite the wrongs she suffered. She finds her only hope for freedom when two rookie attorneys with no background in criminal law step forward to take her case. Attorney Joshua Safran, an Orthodox Jew, draws inspiration from religious tradition, while his partner, an ultra-marathon runner named Nadia Costa, brings enduring stamina. Funded in part by the Sundance Documentary Institute, CRIME AFTER CRIME raises a banner on behalf of battered women in prison and celebrates Jewish values of social justice.

“Justice, justice shall you pursue …”

“A must see film.” - The Los Angeles Times

“Harrowing, moving and inspiring…”
- The Washington Post

Filmmaker Yoav Potash expected to attend.

Generously underwritten by
Class Action LLC/Marc Frankel – Constable

Thursday, July 14, 6:30pm, Little Theatre
CRIME AFTER CRIME
Director: Yoav Potash, US, 2010, 87 min., English, Documentary

Thursday, July 14, 9:00pm, Little Theatre
FIVE HOURS FROM PARIS
Director: Leonid Prudovsky, Israel, 2009, 90 min., Hebrew/Russian w/ subtitles, Narrative

Unlikely lovebirds struggle with midlife complications in FIVE HOURS FROM PARIS, a wistful and gently humorous look at the perils of romance. They meet in a working-class suburb of Tel Aviv, just a five hour flight from Paris. Recently divorced Yigal (Dror Keren), nominated for an Israeli Academy Award, loves music, so it wasn’t a big stretch for him to develop a crush on his son’s music teacher, a former concert pianist. He is a bred-and-born Israeli and she is a Russian immigrant. He has no aspirations. She gave hers up long ago. He is afraid of flying, and she is about to fly away. What are the odds of them ending up together?

Best Picture at the Haifa Film Festival 2010

“These days, the world could use sweeter, mature, thoughtful romance, and Five Hours from Paris delivers it in spades.” - Toronto International Film Festival 2009
The slapstick comedy set the record for the most tickets sold for an Israeli movie in its first weekend. In this raucous and bawdy comedy, the biblical character Lot tries haplessly to resist the temptations of the infamous city of Sodom. As G-d’s wrath draws closer, Lot, his family, the leaders of Sodom and even the avenging angels are seduced by the delights of gambling, sex and corruption. THIS IS SODOM delightfully continues the tradition of wacky and subversive Israeli comedy with a large serving of Monty Pythonesque humor. The cast and crew of THIS IS SODOM also star in and work on ERETZ NEHEDERET (Wonderful Country) – an SNL-like Israeli television show.

Nominated for 5 Israeli Academy Awards and Winner of Best Supporting Actress, 2010 (Alma Zak)

This special late-night screening comes with snacks, give-aways, surprises and more!

While the remake of THE DEBT, starring Helen Mirren, Sam Worthington and Tom Wilkinson, is set for an August release date in U.S. theatres, RJFF has the Israeli original. This thriller tells the powerful story of three former Mossad agents famous for their investigation of Nazi war criminal Max Rainer, “the Surgeon of Birkenau.” The official story is that Rainer committed suicide after being captured. Thirty-five years later, however, a small European paper publishes an article that the criminal is alive and willing to admit his crimes. Overwhelmed by haunting memories of the past, the still-celebrated agents must relive the trauma of those earlier years and confront the debts they incurred.

Nominated for 4 Israeli Academy Awards 2008

Warning: Adult Content

Generously underwritten by The Rubens Family Foundation
With war in Gaza imminent, 4-month-old Mohammad needs a costly bone marrow implant that only an Israeli hospital can perform, or he will die. This critically acclaimed documentary chronicles a race against time as a veteran Israeli TV correspondent and news anchor Shlomi Eldar appeals for donations to save the boy’s life. When the father of a fallen Israeli soldier anonymously steps forward, a tangle of moral and ethical contradictions envelop the journalist, doctors and Mohammad’s Muslim family. This slice of Middle East politics, seen through a very personal lens, offers a remarkably evenhanded platform for debate and a moving cinematic bridge between peoples.

“Magnificent. One of the most moving films of the past several years.”
- Stephen Farber, The Hollywood Reporter

“A remarkable new documentary ... This is the Middle East I know.”
- Thomas L. Friedman, The New York Times

IN SEARCH OF MEMORY tells the lively and compelling story of Nobel Laureate Eric Kandel, M.D. A blend of autobiography and history, the film recounts the life of one of the most important neuroscientists of the 20th century and illuminates our understanding of the brain’s role in recording and preserving memory. In addition to archival footage and dramatic re-creations of Dr. Kandel’s childhood experiences in Nazi-occupied Vienna and his formative years as an emigrant in New York, the film features discussions with Dr. Kandel, friends, and family especially as they relate to his emotional ties to Judaism. In March, 2011 Dr. Kandel was awarded the University of Rochester’s prestigious Eastman Medal for his work.

“An engrossing portrait... a generous introduction to someone worth knowing who knows an awful lot.”

“Mentally stimulating and emotionally affecting.” - Michael Phillips, The Chicago Tribune

Generously underwritten by

Sunday, July 17, 6:00pm, Dryden Theatre
PRECIOUS LIFE (Chayim Yekarim)
Director: Shlomi Eldar, Israel, 2010, 86 min., Hebrew/English/Arabic w/ subtitles, Documentary
From award-winning Israeli director Dan Wolman comes an exquisite, historical epic that interweaves the first wave of Jewish European migration to Palestine, at the end of the 19th century, with the love story of Fania and Yechiel. Seventeen-year-old Fania, her baby daughter, her elderly uncle and her brother arrive at the port of Jaffa as survivors of a Russian pogrom. Having no other viable options, Fania agrees to marry Yechiel, a settler who is trying to cultivate the barren lands purchased from local Arabs. As Fania tries to look to the future, a harrowing secret from the past threatens to stop her. GEI ONI is based on the classic novel by Shulamit Lapid.

**Best Picture at the Jerusalem Film Festival 2010**

**Generously underwritten by**

**State of the Arts**

**NYSCA**

Sunday, July 17, 8:15pm, Dryden Theatre

**GEI ONI (Valley of Fortitude)**

Director: Dan Wolman, Israel, 2010, 100 min., Hebrew/English/Russian/Arabic/Romanian/Turkish w/ subtitles, Narrative
CLOSING NIGHT
Monday, July 18, 7:00pm, Dryden Theatre

JEWS AND BASEBALL: AN AMERICAN LOVE STORY
Director: Peter Miller, Canada/US, 2010, 91 min., English, Documentary

A rousing homage to the national pastime sure to delight fans and non-fans alike, JEWS AND BASEBALL charts the historic and cultural contributions of the greatest Jewish major leaguers ever to step onto the field. JEWS AND BASEBALL, in its exploration of the connection between Jewish Americans and our nation’s most iconic institution, is more than a film about sports. It is a story of immigration, assimilation, bigotry, heroism, the passing on of traditions and the shattering of stereotypes.

Interviews include fans, writers, executives, and especially players – including Al Rosen, Kevin Youkilis, Hank Greenberg, Norm Sherry, Shawn Green, Ron Blomberg, Bob Feller, Yogi Berra, and a rare interview with the legendary Hall of Fame pitcher Sandy Koufax. JEWS AND BASEBALL is the first major documentary to tell these compelling stories. Dustin Hoffman narrates this engaging story of great drama, unforgettable games and the broad sweep of American history.

“Lively and enlightening” - New York Daily News
“Fascinating, funny, poignant” - Jeffrey Lyons, Lyons Den Radio

AUDIENCE FAVORITE: Phoenix and Seattle Jewish film festivals

Film followed by Closing Night Party with baseball-themed treats, live music and more!

The Rochester Red Wings join the celebration of JEWS AND BASEBALL.

Director Peter Miller expected to attend.

Generously underwritten by

FIRST NIAGARA
special thanks to:

The Kessler Group
The Little Theatre Staff
The Dryden Theatre Staff
Cora Holliday, Tom Habecker, Bill Donahue & the JCC Staff
Mike Champlin for his technical support
360 | 365 George Eastman House
Film Festival
ImageOut Film Festival
Reel Mind Film Series
Atlanta Jewish Film Festival
Boston Jewish Film Festival
Seattle Jewish Film Festival
Toronto Jewish Film Festival
Washington Jewish Film Festival

To the film introducers, post-film discussion leaders, special guests, writers and all of the volunteers who give of their time, it could not happen without you. Thank you!

2011 festival venues:

900 East Avenue

240 East Avenue

Alfred and Ida Hart Theatre
1200 Edgewood Avenue

rjjf mission statement

The Jewish Community Center of Greater Rochester established the Rochester Jewish Film Festival in 2001 to present the best contemporary Jewish themed films from around the world to the Rochester community. RJFF exists to promote awareness and pride in the diversity of the Jewish people; to strengthen community consciousness of Jewish identity, history and culture; to provide a forum for community gatherings that allows valuable dialogue; and to create an international showcase for filmmakers whose work explores Jewish themes.
jiff 2011 ticket order form:

Due to frequent sell-outs, RJFF encourages advance purchase of tickets!

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TOTAL $ DUE:

If JCC Member, JCC Membership #: ____________________________

Check: Check enclosed made payable to Rochester Jewish Film Festival

Credit Card: ☐ Master Card ☐ Visa ☐ Discover ☐ AmEx

Card #: ____________________________
Exp. Date: __________ Security code: __________ Authorized Signature: ____________________________

Name: ____________________________
Street Address: ____________________________
City ____________________________ State_______ Zip__________________
Phone ____________________________ Email ____________________________

www.rjff.org (A small service fee will apply.)
**TICKET INFORMATION:** (To order tickets, see ticket order form page.)

**TICKET PRICING:**
- General Admission Ticket (Unless noted below.) $9 JCC Member/$11 Non Member
- Weekday Matinee Ticket $6 JCC Member/$8 Non Member
- Opening and Closing Night Ticket (Party included) $12 JCC Member/$15 Non Member
- All Festival Pass $125 JCC Member/$145 Non Member
- Discounts $1 off for Students (Advance sale only)

**ADVANCE PURCHASE TICKETS:**
- Charge by Phone: 585-461-2000
- Charge by FAX: 585-461-0805
- By Mail: Mail to JCC, 1200 Edgewood Avenue, Rochester, NY 14618
- In Person: JCC Front Desk or Arts Department, 1200 Edgewood Avenue in Brighton
- Online: www.rjff.org (A convenience fee will apply.) Online sales may end if a film is close to selling-out.

Advance sale tickets are NOT available at The Little Theatre or The Dryden Theatre. Please, do not call theatres for information.

**WALK-INS DAY OF SHOW:**
As per availability, tickets are sold 45 minutes prior to show time at festival venues. If a film is almost sold-out, RJFF will distribute temporary tickets 45 minutes prior to show time at the venue. If seats are available at show time, due to no-shows, the temporary ticket can be exchanged for a valid ticket. RJFF can make no guarantees of ticket availability for walk-ins.

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

**SEATING:**
Seating is general admission except for All Festival Pass Holders who have reserved seating until 15 minutes prior to show time.

**PASS HOLDER POLICY:**
All Festival Passes allow access to ALL films and easy entry through the Speedy Pass Lane. Pass Holder seating section is reserved until 15 minutes prior to show time. **RJFF cannot guarantee seating for late arrivals.** All Festival Passes are non-transferable. Please help support the festival by encouraging friends and family to purchase their own tickets.

**REFUNDS:**
Refunds are available for canceled or rescheduled programs. Due to circumstances beyond our control, films may be canceled or rescheduled without prior notice.

**PARKING:**
Parking is available in the main parking lots of The Little Theatre and The Dryden Theatre, in area parking lots or garages, and along East Avenue and side streets. Please observe parking rules. Parking is available in the JCC parking lot. **RJFF encourages carpooling!**

**ACCESSIBILITY:**
The Little Theatre, Dryden Theatre and JCC Hart Theatre are handicap accessible.

**FOOD:**
All foods served at RJFF events are in strict observance of the laws of kashrut unless otherwise indicated.

**QUESTIONS:**
For additional information please call 585-461-2000 or visit www.rjff.org.

**DONOR OPPORTUNITIES AND BENEFITS**

Please consider becoming an Ames Amzalak Rochester Jewish Film Festival donor!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LEVEL</th>
<th>BENEFIT</th>
<th>Recognition in Festival Brochure</th>
<th>All Festival Passes</th>
<th>Recognition in JCC Magazine and rjff.org</th>
<th>Donor Recognition Event</th>
<th>Underwrite a Film</th>
<th>Signage at Theaters and JCC</th>
<th>Featured on Promotional Trailer</th>
<th>Special Festival Recognition</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Visionary $10,000 +</td>
<td>8</td>
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<td>Executive Producer $5,000 - $9,999</td>
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<td>Director $1,250 - $2,499</td>
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<td>Actor $350 - $499</td>
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<td>Extra $200 - $349</td>
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Closing Night:  
JEWS AND BASEBALL:  
AN AMERICAN LOVE STORY