

PRESENT

NEW YORK

# 10th Sephardic Jewish Film Festival

FEBRUARY 2 - 8 • 2006

AT THE CENTER FOR JEWISH HISTORY

“A breakthrough among filmmakers interested in the state of the Sephardic world, with a significant body of work beginning to present itself. The festival offers a highly respectable slate of fiction and documentary films from an intriguing range of sources ...”  
— George Robinson, *Jewish Week* —

## 10 years of Cinematic Exploration of Sephardic Jewry

Celebrating its 10th season, the NY Sephardic Jewish Film Festival presents a weeklong series of award-winning and critically acclaimed feature films and documentaries that will raise the public awareness about Sephardic culture and history through cinematic exploration. In recent years, the festival has garnered critical attention for its provocative direction. This year's timely themes include a special focus on the courage and valor of Sephardic women and their efforts to reshape their role in today's society. Compelling panel discussions moderated by filmmakers, actors and scholars will accompany the screenings.

**VENUE** CENTER FOR JEWISH HISTORY  
15 West 16th Street - bet. Fifth and Sixth Avenues

\*Monday, February 6, 2006 at 8pm  
One additional Screening of "SECRET PASSAGE"  
at the JCC Manhattan - 76th Street at Amsterdam Ave.

**TICKETS** \$10 general / \$8 members, students and seniors  
\$40 Festival Subscription Pass  
\*Valid for five films excluding Opening Night Screening  
\*Reservations for specific screenings required at purchase

**Box Office** Phone 917.606.8200 - E-mail [boxoffice@cjh.org](mailto:boxoffice@cjh.org)  
Purchase tickets online at [www.ticketweb.com](http://www.ticketweb.com)



This Festival is made possible with  
public funds from the New York  
Council on the Arts, a state agency.

AMERICAN SEPHARDI FEDERATION WITH SEPHARDIC HOUSE  
AT THE CENTER FOR JEWISH HISTORY / 15 WEST 16TH STREET - NEW YORK - NY - 10011  
Phone 212.294.8350 - Fax 212.294.8348 - <http://www.americansephardifederation.org>

2<sup>thu.</sup>

**7:00PM** Live and Become /  
Va, Vis et Deviens

**OPENING NIGHT**  
SCREENING AND RECEPTION

Dir. Radu Mihaileanu / France-Israel, 2004 / 143 mins. / Hebrew,  
French and Amharic with English subtitles **IN PERSON** Sirak M.  
Sabahat (actor) / Advance reservation required: Tickets: \$45

4<sup>sat.</sup>

**7:00PM** Elias Canetti

Dir. Thomas Honickel / Germany, 2005 / 59 mins. / German with  
English subtitles **DISCUSSION** Gloria Ascher (Tufts University)  
"Canetti's Sephardic Roots and How They Shaped His Identity"

**9:00PM** Secret Passage

Dir. Ademir Kenovic / UK-Luxembourg, 2004 / 94 mins. / English  
THIS FILM IS PRESENTED IN COLLABORATION WITH THE INSTITUTO CERVANTES

5<sup>sun.</sup>

**12NOON** Salaam Shalom: The Jews of India

Dir. Vanessa C. Laufer / Canada, 1999 / 50 mins. / English  
**DISCUSSION** Nissim B. Reuben (American Jewish Committee)  
"Indian Jewish Heritage"

NY  
PREMIERE

**2:30PM** A Matter of Time: Common Fate

Dir. Serge Ankri / Israel, 2005 / 52 mins. / Hebrew with English  
subtitles **Q&A** Serge Ankri (Director)

NY  
PREMIERE

**FOLLOWED BY** The Last Greeks on Broome Street

Dir. Ed Askinazi / US, 2004 / 27 mins. / English  
**Q&A** Ed Askinazi (Director)

NY  
PREMIERE

**5:00PM** The Forgotten Refugees

Dir. Michael Grynszpan - Tommy Schwarcz / US, 2005 / 49 mins.  
/ English **DISCUSSION** Charles Jacobs (The David Project) and Gina  
Waldman (Human Rights Activist)

**7:30PM** Live and Become / Va, Vis et Deviens

Dir. Radu Mihaileanu / France-Israel, 2004 / 143 mins. / Hebrew,  
French and Amharic with English subtitles **IN PERSON** Sirak M.  
Sabahat (actor)

6<sup>mon.</sup>

**6:30PM** Love Iranian American Style

Dir. Tanaz Eshaghian / US, 2005 / 62 mins. / English and Farsi with  
English subtitles **Q&A** Tanaz Eshaghian (Director)

**8:30PM** The Garden of the Finzi-Contini

Dir. Vittorio De Sica / Italy-West Germany, 1970 / 94 mins. / Ital-  
ian with English subtitles

7<sup>tue.</sup>

**4:00PM** Salaam Shalom: The Jews of India

Dir. Vanessa C. Laufer / Canada, 1999 / 50 mins. / English

**6:30PM** The Forgotten Refugees

Dir. Michael Grynszpan / US, 2005 / 49 mins. / English

NY  
PREMIERE

**8:30PM** Until Tomorrow Comes

Dir. David Deri / Israel, 2004 / 65 mins. / Hebrew with English sub-  
titles **Q&A** David Deri (Director) and Raymonde Abecassis (Actress)

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# 10th NY Sephardic Jewish Film Festival

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## Live and Become / Va, Vis et Deviens

- THURSDAY FEBRUARY 2, 2006 | 7:00PM
- SUNDAY FEBRUARY 5, 2006 | 7:30PM



Renowned director Radu Mihaileanu has created a touching story of a Moroccan Israeli family who adopts an Ethiopian boy, airlifted to Israel from a Sudanese refugee camp in 1984 during Operation Moses. The film follows Schlomo's conflicted journey into adulthood as he struggles with survival, a secret identity, and love.

## Elias Canetti

- SATURDAY FEBRUARY 4, 2006 | 7:00PM

A "Spanish poet of German language," Elias Canetti grew up a polyglot, living at different periods of his life in Bulgaria, England and Vienna. He was born into an elite Sephardic family who when expelled from Spain in 1492, settled in the Ottoman Empire. His masterpieces *Auto-da-Fé* and *Crowds and Power*, are considered among the most original works of the 20th Century. The film will be followed by a talk with Gloria Ascher, Tufts University on Canetti's Sephardic heritage.

## Secret Passage

- SATURDAY FEBRUARY 4, 2006 | 9:00PM
- WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 8, 2006 | 6:00PM



From Bosnian director, Ademir Kenovic ("The Perfect Circle"), comes a period-piece filled with intrigue and romance. Set in 16th century Venice, the film revolves around two women saved from the Spanish Inquisition who secretly practice Judaism while planning their escape to the safety of the Ottoman Empire.

## Salaam Shalom: The Jews of India

- SUNDAY FEBRUARY 5, 2006 | 12 NOON
- TUESDAY FEBRUARY 7, 2006 | 4:00PM

A colorful film about the Jews of India brings to life a remarkable history dating back two millennia. A microscopic minority living within a vast, varied nation, Jews who have been in India for thousands of years and more recent immigrants from Iraq and Spain, co-existed in an environment of tolerance and pluralism. With the declaration of Indian independence in 1947 and the creation of the State of Israel in 1948, many of the Jews of India decided to "leave their home to find their home: their religious loyalty stronger than their national loyalty to India."

## A Matter of Time: Common Fate

- SUNDAY FEBRUARY 5, 2006 | 2:30PM

The little-known story of the Jewish Communities of North Africa (Libya, Tunisia, Algeria and Morocco) during WW II, revealing how, had fate not intervened, it was only "a matter of time" until they would have shared the fate of their co-religionists in Europe. While often considered a Jewish community "apart" the film reveals through archival and contemporary footage and interviews with surviving witnesses and historians that these Jews too were very much in the thoughts of the murderous Nazis.



## The Last Greeks on Broome Street

- SUNDAY FEBRUARY 5, 2006 | 2:30PM

FOLLOWING THE SCREENING OF "A MATTER OF TIME: COMMON FATE"

A personal exploration of the filmmaker's heritage doubles as a fascinating glimpse into the little known community of Greek Jews, also known as Romaniotes, with 2,000 years of history and their own language. The Kehila Kedosha Janina on Broome Street is the only remaining Romaniote synagogue in the Western Hemisphere.



## The Forgotten Refugees

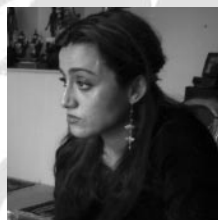
- SUNDAY FEBRUARY 5, 2006 | 5:00PM
- TUESDAY FEBRUARY 7, 2006 | 6:30PM

A documentary produced by the David Project and IsraTV, traces the decline and disappearance of Middle Eastern Jewish communities from Egypt, Iraq, Libya, and Yemen that had existed for over 2,500 years.



## Love Iranian American Style

- MONDAY FEBRUARY 6, 2006 | 6:30PM



The directorial debut of Tanaz Eshaghian, is a deeply personal documentary that offers a rare glimpse into the inner circles of the tightly knit Persian Jewish community in America. The film follows Tanaz, the narrator, a hip New Yorker whose Iranian family attempts to marry her off now that she's reached the ancient age of 25. As they arrange dates with suitors, lament her liberal American upbringing, and agitate about the passing of youth, Tanaz explores weather she can find love in her own way.

## The Garden of the Finzi-Contini

- MONDAY FEBRUARY 6, 2006 | 8:30PM



SPECIAL  
REVIVAL  
PRESENTATION

Adapted from Giorgio Bassani's 1962 semiautobiographical novel, the film chronicles the gradual disintegration of the Italian Jewish community of Ferrara at the beginning of World War II. As Fascist persecution of the Jews escalates from the onset of Benito Mussolini's anti-Semitic edicts in 1938 to the mass arrests and deportations in 1943, the wealthy Finzi-Contini family opens their lush gardens to the persecuted friends of their children, Micol and Alberto. It is through the eyes of one of these friends, a middle-class, Jewish-Italian student named Giorgio that the story of unrequited love, set in tragic historic times, unfolds.

## Until Tomorrow Comes

- TUESDAY FEBRUARY 7, 2006 | 8:30PM
- WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 8, 2006 | 8:00PM



The film vividly depicts the realities of inter-generational conflicts in a dramatic and tender portrayal of a week-in-the-life of a beauty salon owner in the South of Israel facing the decline of her aging mother, the unraveling marital crisis of her daughter, and an unexpected courtship threatening her cherished solitude.

