



American Sephardi Federation
with *Sephardic House*
and Yeshiva University Museum *present*

9th New York International Sephardic Jewish Film Festival

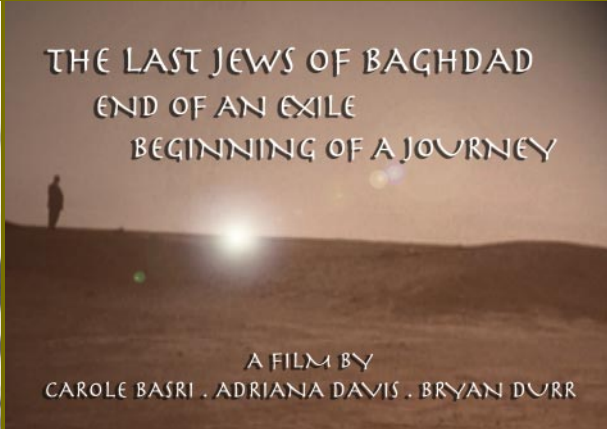
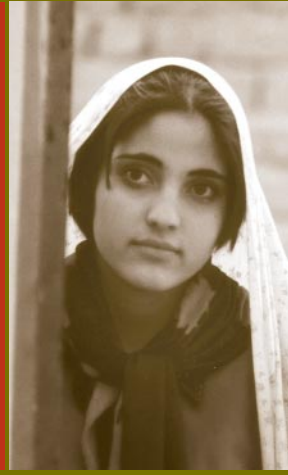
Roots and Origins



February 3-9, 2005

At the
**Center for
Jewish History**

15 West 16th Street
NEW YORK



**OPENING NIGHT SCREENING AND RECEPTION,
THURSDAY FEBRUARY 3, 2005**

7:00 pm ***The Last Sephardic Jew*** (Dir. Miguel Angel Nieto; Spain, 2003; 90 minutes - Ladino and Hebrew with English subtitles) Tickets \$35; Please reserve by calling the Box Office at 917-606-8200, Or ASF/SH at 212-294-8350. **Reservations required.** *This film presented in collaboration with the Instituto Cervantes*

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2005

6:30 pm ***Abjad*** (Dir. Abolfazl Jalili; Iran, 2003; 109 minutes - Farsi with English subtitles): New York Premiere, Q & A with Haideh Sahim, Executive Director of the International Society for Iranian Studies.

9:00 pm ***Bonjour Monsieur Shlomi*** (Dir. Shemi Zarhin; 2004, Israel; 94 minutes - Hebrew with English subtitles); Q & A with actor Oshri Cohen (Shlomi)

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2005

12 noon ***Pillar of Salt*** (Directed by Chaim Shiran; Israel, 1980; 58 minutes - Hebrew with English subtitles): Q & A with Director and Tribute to Viki Shiran.

2:30 pm ***The Rock and the Star*** (Directed by Katia Mesel; Brazil, 2004; 28 minutes - Portuguese with English subtitles) & ***Paths of Memory: The Trajectory of the Jews in Portugal*** (Directed by Elaine Eiger and Luize Valente; 2002, Brazil; 57 minutes - Portuguese with English subtitles)

5:00 pm ***Derrida*** (Dir. Kirby Dick and Amy Ziering Kofman; U.S., 2002; 83 minutes - English and French with English subtitles): Q & A with NYU Professor Avital Ronell.

7:30 pm ***La Terza Luna**** (Dir. Matteo Bellinelli; 1997, Italy; 85 minutes - Italian with English subtitles) U.S. Premiere; Q & A with director.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2005

7:00 pm ***Desperate Hours*** (Dir. Victoria Barrett; Turkey, 2001; 64 minutes - Hebrew and Turkish with English subtitles): Round Table Panel with Turkish Consul General Omer Onhon, Ms. V. Barrett, Turkish Jewish Expert Niso Abuaf, and survivor Bernard Turiel.

9:00 pm ***Abjad***; Q & A with Haideh Sahim.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2005

4:00 pm & 6:30 pm ***Bar Mitzvah*** (Dir. Daniel Wachsmann; Israel, 2004; 82 minutes - Hebrew with English subtitles) U.S. Premiere

8:30 pm ***La Terza Luna****: Q & A with director.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2005

6:00 pm ***Bonjour Monsieur Shlomi***

CLOSING NIGHT

8:00 pm ***The Last Jews of Baghdad: End of an Exile, Beginning of a Journey*** (Directed by Adriana Davis and Carole Basri; U.S., 2004; 110 minutes – English) World Premiere
Q & A with Directors Carole Basri & Adriana Davis.

* Parental advisory recommended. Please note: *This film is presented under the sole sponsorship of ASF/SH.*

Film Festival Curator - Alla Verlotsky, Seagull Films

Screening times listed are subject to change. For an additional listing of films and times, please check our website: www.asfonline.org.

Ticket Information:

- \$10.00 General Public
- \$8.00 Members of ASF with Sephardic House, Yeshiva University Museum, seniors and students
- \$40 Festival subscription pass – good for five films not including Opening Night. Reservations for specific screenings must be made at time of purchase.
- Tickets can be purchased in advance with the form on the back page of this brochure; or through the Center for Jewish History Box

Office, in person or by calling 917-606-8200. Box office hours are Sunday – Thursday 11 AM – 5 PM and 2 hours prior to screenings.

- Tickets will be mailed to the billing address unless WILL CALL is chosen. Orders received less than one week before the event will be held at the BOX OFFICE.

Locations:

All screenings at the Center for Jewish History, 15 West 16th Street between 5th and 6th Avenues. One additional screening at the Manhattan JCC at 76th and Amsterdam on Monday, February 7, 2005, at 8 pm: *The Last Sephardic Jew*.

9th New York
International Sephardic
Jewish Film Festival
Roots and Origins
February 3–9, 2005

At the Center for Jewish History
15 West 16th Street,
New York, New York 10011

Presented by American Sephardi Federation
with Sephardic House
and Yeshiva University Museum

www.asfonline.org

Order Form

To order tickets by mail, please complete the form below and return to:

Center Box Office/Center for Jewish History
15 West 16th Street, New York, NY 10011

Name _____

Please refer to Ticket Information for prices.

Address _____

Ticket Total \$ _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Handling Charge \$ 3.00

Phone (Day) (Evening) _____

Tax-deductible Contribution \$ _____

E-mail _____

Grand Total \$ _____

Date _____ Time _____ # of Tickets _____ at \$ _____

Enclosed is my check
in the amount of \$ _____

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Opening night screening and reception \$35

I would like my tickets held at WILL CALL

Signature _____

Please send me _____ Film Festival Subscriptions at \$40 each.

(Please Indicate Films Above.)

9th New York International Sephardic Jewish Film Festival

(Continued from page 1)

scholars. This year's roster includes what should be a fascinating discussion following the film *Desperate Hours*, about the efforts of Turkish governmental officials and clergy to save their country's Jews during World War II. The panel will include the film's director, Victoria Barrett, as well as Omer Onhon, the Consul General of Turkey in New York, Turkish scholar Niso Abuaf, and Bernard Touriel, a survivor.

This year the 9th NY International Sephardic Jewish Film Festival is extremely

proud to present the world premiere of *The Last Jews of Baghdad: End of an Exile, Beginning of a Journey*. In addition, the Festival includes two U.S. premieres, *Barmitzvah* and *La Terza Luna*, and two New York film premieres, *Abjad* and *The Last Sephardic Jew*.

We hope you can join us for all of this year's offerings, and explore the variegated and vibrant world of Sephardic Jewry.

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SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2005 | 6:30 PM

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2005 | 9:00 PM

ABJAD (NEW YORK PREMIERE)

Directed by Abolfazl Jalili

Iran, 2003; 109 minutes | Farsi with English subtitles



This semi-autobiographical coming-of-age story by acclaimed Iranian director Abolfazl Jalili (*Delbaran*) takes place in pre-revolutionary Iran, at a time when Jews made up 15 percent of the population and many Jewish parents sent their children to Muslim schools. Emkan, a Muslim teenager, falls in love with Maassoum, a mysterious Jewish girl. Their touching love story blossoms in a country about to fall sway to revolutionary madness. The film is a moving portrait of Jewish life in Iran, and a compelling story of cross-cultural understanding.

Abjad's beautiful cinematography is worth the price of admission alone, and puts Jalili at the forefront of the world-renowned Iranian filmmaking movement.

Born 1957 in Saveh, **Abolfazl Jalili** was involved in the arts as a painter and calligrapher, before purchasing an 8mm camera and falling in love with filmmaking. He entered the Iranian College of Dramatic Arts in order to study cinema academically, but he left school and moved to Iranian TV to make children's films— a path followed by many other Iranian filmmakers, including Abbas Kiarostami. Jalili has always been a controversial figure in the Iranian cinema for his choices of subject matter. His film *Det Means Girl* won awards from the Venice and Nantes Film Festivals in 1995. Some of his outstanding films are: *Scabies* (1987), *Dorna* (1990), *A True Story* (1996), and *Dance of Dust* (1998).

Haideh Sahim graduated from Tehran University with an M. A. in Iranian Linguistics and Ancient Culture. She also holds an M. Phil. in Near Eastern Languages and Literatures from New York University. She collaborated with the Encyclopedia Iranica project for a number of years and is currently the Executive Director of the International Society for Iranian Studies. Haideh has written a number of articles and book chapters on the history and dialects of the Jews of Iran and Afghanistan and on Iranian history.

**The screening will be followed by a Q&A with Haideh Sahim,
Executive Director of the International Society for Iranian Studies**



served as the Third Secretary in the Turkish Embassy in Riyadh, the First Secretary of the Turkish Delegation to OSCE, Vienna, and the Section Head of the International Security and Disarmament Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Between 1995 and 2000 he was Counselor at the Turkish Delegation to NATO in Brussels, and the First Counselor at the Turkish Embassy in Damascus. Prior to his arrival in the US, Mr. Onhon was the Head of the Department for the Middle East at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Bernard (Boaz) Turiel was born in Rhodes in 1934. The Isle of Rhodes is the largest of the Dodecanese islands in the southeastern Aegean Sea. Although part of Greece, it is not near the Greek mainland, but lies just off the coast of Turkey. Mr. Turiel's father, Daniel, was born in Rhodes in 1898 and his mother, Mathilde, in Izmir, Turkey in 1908. In July 1944, the SS rounded up the Jewish community in Rhodes, ultimately sent to Auschwitz. Thanks to the Turkish Consul, Selahattin Ulkumen, who intervened on behalf of those who were Turkish subjects, more than 50 were saved including the Turiel family who left Rhodes for Turkey in January 1945. In July 1946, they were able to emigrate to the United States, where Mr. Turiel's father joined his two brothers in their import/export business.

Bernard Turiel attended the prestigious Stuyvesant High School in New York City, NYU and NYU Law School where he received his degree in 1959. He worked for the Federal Trade Commission until 1966 and is now an attorney in private practice in northern New Jersey.

Born and raised in Istanbul, Turkey, **Niso Abuaf** earned his Ph.D. and M.B.A. from the University of Chicago, and his M.S. and B.S. in Electrical and Bio-Medical Engineering from Northwestern University. He is a board member of the American Jewish Committee and the Turkish American Business Forum. He speaks Turkish, French, Spanish (including Judeo-Spanish), German, and Italian. Mr. Abuaf is a Managing Director and head of the Financial Strategy Group at Credit Suisse First Boston.

Sponsored by the Consul General of Turkey in New York



TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2005 | 4:00 PM & 6:30 PM

BARMITZVAH (U.S. PREMIERE)

Directed by Daniel Wachsmann

Israel, 2004; 82 minutes | Hebrew with English subtitles



*B*armitzvah is a sensitive and compelling work by the director of the beloved film of last year's festival – *Menelik: Black Jewish Prince*. This is a moving account of life in the northern Israeli city of Kiryat Shmona – a close-knit, working class Sephardic community besieged by labor tensions and fear of rocket attacks from Lebanon. Daniel Wachsmann's film documents one father's struggle to provide for his family, putting all his pride (and meager resources) into

his only son's bar mitzvah, after the town's factory unexpectedly closes down. *Barmitzvah* is an emotional portrayal of economic challenge, and a surprisingly warm-hearted tale of family life. The film's enormous empathy, for all its characters, is remarkable and touching. Like *Menelik*, *Barmitzvah* is Wachsmann's effort to bring a fuller portrait of contemporary Israel onscreen, exploring the lives of its less fortunate.

Daniel Wachsmann is a prize-winning Israeli director and screenwriter. His short film *My Father* won first prize at the Mannheim Film Festival, and was named Israel's best short film of 1975. His first feature film, *Transit* (1979), was awarded the Silver Rose award for best original Israeli film, and its followup, *Hamsin* (1982), was the country's official entry for the Academy Awards that year. Other films include *The Appointed* (1989), *Song of Galilee* (1996), which took the Silver Hugo at the Chicago Film Festival, the documentary *Menelik: Black Jewish Prince* (2000), and *Forrest* (2001).



CLOSING NIGHT

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2005 | 8:00 PM

THE LAST JEWS OF BAGHDAD:
END OF AN EXILE, BEGINNING OF A JOURNEY

(WORLD PREMIERE)

Directed by Adriana Davis and Carole Basri

U.S., 2004; 110 minutes | English



The Iraqi Jewish community, once a flourishing center for Jewish culture, was devastated during the last 75 years by anti-Semitic persecution and the reign of Saddam Hussein. *The Last Jews of Baghdad* takes a historical and personal look at the persecution, torture, escape, and exodus of over 160,000 Iraqi Jews between 1940 and 2003. The film utilizes documentary footage and interviews with the Jews who

fled their beloved homeland for over 2500 years. *The Last Jews of Baghdad* is a sequel of sorts to last year's festival success, *Searching for Baghdad*, and an unstinting look at the tragic story of Iraqi Jewry.

Carole Basri is a filmmaker and adjunct Professor of Law at the University of Pennsylvania, School of Law. Her previous film, *Searching for Baghdad: A Daughter's Journey*, a personal travelogue of her effort to locate her Iraqi roots, was the opening night film at last year's festival. The child of Iraqi immigrants, she has created a trilogy of films on Iraqi Jewish life of which *The Last Jews of Baghdad* is the final segment. Over the past year and a half, Ms. Basri has traveled to Baghdad six times and was a member of the Coalition Provisional Authority under Ambassador Paul Bremer.

Adriana Davis is a producer, writer, editor, and filmmaker. Her company, D-Squared Media, was involved in the production of a trilogy of films on Iraqi Jewry: *The Life of Frank Iny: A Granddaughter's Journey*; *Searching for Baghdad: A Daughter's Journey*; and *The Last Jews of Baghdad*. She is also an accomplished voiceover artist, and has produced commercials and other audiovisual work for A&E, The History Channel, and many other clients.

Q&A with directors to follow



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