

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2:00 PM



FILM

The Dybbuk

Berney Theatre - Rady JCC - 123 Doncaster Street
\$10 Members | \$12 Non-Members

POLAND | 1937 | 123 MINUTES | B&W | YIDDISH WITH NEW ENGLISH SUBTITLES | DIRECTED BY MICHAL WASZYNSKI | BASED ON THE PLAY BY S. ANSKY

The Dybbuk (based on S. Ansky's seminal Yiddish play) weaves a poignant mystical story of the Hasidic shtetl of the late 19th century. It is thought of as perhaps the most artful of Yiddish films and one of the great works of European Expressionist Cinema. It follows the story of two close friends, Sender and Nisn, who vow to marry their first-born children, but when Sender reneges on the vow in order to marry his daughter to a wealthier man, the spirit of Nisn's son arrives to haunt Lea's wedding. The film is known for its gorgeously constructed musical and dance interludes and its haunting imagery. The Dybbuk's creation brought together all of the best talents of pre WWII Polish Jewry, script writers, composers, choreographers, set designers, and actors.

"One of the most solemn attestations to the mystic powers of the spirit the imagination has ever purveyed to the film reel." – PARKER TYLER, CLASSICS OF THE FOREIGN FILM

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 8:00 PM



CONCERT

Socalled (Jewish Cowboy)

West End Cultural Centre - 586 Ellice Avenue
\$15 In advance | \$20 At the door

FREE transportation available from the Rady upon request

Join us for a reception following the show
with knishes and more from Primo Deli

Montreal based Yiddish hip-hop (yes that's right!) artist Socalled is an unstoppable creative force: accordion player, pianist, singer, rapper, and composer. His unique blend of klezmer, hiphop, and funk erases boundaries that separate cultures, eras, and generations. Samples of Yiddish classics from a bygone time backing fascinating lyrics about love and belonging and more in both English and Yiddish make his surprising music as fun and danceable it is moving and evocative. Socalled is a Juno nominee, the star of a feature length NFB documentary and has played Carnegie Hall (twice!). He has written a puppet musical and a hip-hop Passover Seder. Joining him on stage will be long-time collaborator and mesmerizing vocalist Katie Moore as well as the talented Michale Felber on bass, and Nizo Alimov on Trumpet. This is sure to be an unforgettable event!

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 10:00 AM

Bagels and A Bisl (a bit of) Yiddish

Adult Lounge - Rady JCC - 123 Doncaster Street | \$5

Join us for coffee and a bagel breakfast as we learn the best (and funniest) expressions in the Mamaloshn (mother tongue). With Professor Itay Zutra, Judaic Studies, University of Manitoba.



Register by email: snewman@radyjcc.com

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2:00 PM

FILM



Hester Street

Berney Theatre - Rady JCC
123 Doncaster Street

\$10 Members | \$12 Non-Members

Among the great cinematic portraits of Jewish life in America, Joan Micklin Silver's 1975 Hester Street (based on Abraham Cahan's 1896 novella Yekl: A Tale of the New York Ghetto) features the breathtaking, Oscar nominated Yiddish language performance of a very young Carol Kane. Kane stars as Gitl, a Russian Jewish immigrant who has come in 1896, with her young son to meet her husband who has already settled into New York's Lower East Side. She is stunned to find he has turned against all of the old world ways and is having an affair with a dancer. The film shows in wonderful detail the fascinating world of this thriving haven for Jews as it explores the complex changes, both painful and liberating, Gitl must go through as she adjusts to the demands of this new world.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 3:30 PM

I.L. Peretz Folk School Alumni Reunion

Adult Lounge - Rady JCC - 123 Doncaster Street

Have fun and schmooze with friends!

Let's keep the flame of Yiddish alive!

There is a quiet humor in Yiddish and a gratitude for every day of life, every crumb of success, each encounter of love ... In a figurative way, Yiddish is the wise and humble language of us all, the idiom of a frightened and hopeful humanity.

ISSAC BASHEVIS SINGER

TICKETS: www.radyjcc.com | 204.477.7510



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FESTIVAL OF NEW YIDDISH CULTURE

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COMMUNICATIONS & DIGITAL CONTENT

Laura Marjovsky
DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMMING

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& DIGITAL CONTENT

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ARTISTIC ADVISOR

Natali Halberthal
MANAGER OF PROGRAMMING

Jerry Augustin
TECHNICAL COORDINATOR

Roberta Malam
PROGRAM DEPARTMENT ASSISTANT

Thank you to our
dedicated volunteers



Dear Friends,

I am excited to welcome you to the inaugural year of Put a Yid on It! Festival of New Yiddish Culture.

The language of our ancestors remains 'written in our bones' and informs our unconscious lives. It's hard to imagine that only 80 years ago 11 million people

spoke, wrote, sang, and dreamt in this 1000 year old language! It spanned throughout all of Eastern Europe and spread wherever our people travelled.

We are thrilled to share great works of Yiddish art with our audience, including gems of the Yiddish cinema of the 1930's, which will bring the ghosts of our forebearers to joyful three-dimensional

life, and Yiddish Language hip-hop which moves Yiddish into a living, breathing present tense.

And the best part? You don't need to speak a word of Yiddish to enjoy every bit of this festival!

Get ready to *Put a Yid on It!*

— Shira Newman, Festival Producer

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2:00 PM



FILM

Yiddle With His Fiddle

Yidl Mitn Fidl

Berney Theatre - Rady JCC - 123 Doncaster Street
\$10 Members | \$12 Non-Members

POLAND | 1936 | 92 MINUTES | B&W | YIDDISH WITH NEW ENGLISH SUBTITLES | DIRECTED BY JOSEPH GREEN AND JAN NOWINA-PRZYBYLSKI

A joyful folk comedy about a man and his daughter who, penniless, decide to become travelling musicians. The daughter disguises herself as a boy to relieve her father's anxiety about unforeseeable problems that could befall a young woman "out in the world." Starring Molly Picon, consummate comedienne of Yiddish theater, vaudeville, and film and shot on location in a shtetl near Warsaw with its real life inhabitants as extras, this film captures the vitality and invincible spirit of traditional small town Jewish Life. It is the all time most commercially successful musical of the Yiddish Cinema.

"With Picon at her pert best, a lilting score, and picturesque scenery, the 1936 Yidl turned into the first truly international Yiddish-movie hit." - KAREN LIPSON, NEW YORK NEWSDAY

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 7:30 PM

FREE EVENT



BOOK LAUNCH

Yiddish Cinema: The Drama of Troubled Communication

with authors Jonah Corne and Monika Vrečar

The Handsome Daughter—61 Sherbrook St
Join us for drinks and snacks and a reception to follow
Register by email: snewman@radyjcc.com

The turbulent Yiddish world of the first half of the twentieth century produced great works not only of literature, theatre, and music, but of cinema. In their new book, Jonah Corne and Monika Vrečar explore these little-known, "ethnic," diasporic films and bring to light the films' unique preoccupation with the idea that, to quote the Czech-Jewish media philosopher Vilém Flusser (1920-1991), "the structure of communication is the infrastructure of human reality." The book addresses several subjects through which this fascination is articulated, including the family, religious tradition, immigration, displacement, new forms of mass media, antisemitism, and Jewish mysticism. Ultimately, the book offers a novel way of understanding Yiddish cinema, showing how the movies surprisingly "theorize" about communication—and the struggle to communicate—from the position of a wildly entertaining, often devastating, popular dramatic art form.

Jonah Corne is an Associate Professor in the Department of English, Theatre, Film and Media at the University of Manitoba, where he serves as the Coordinator of the Film Studies program.

Monika Vrečar is an independent scholar who holds a PhD in Philosophy and Theory of Visual Culture from the University of Primorska, Slovenia. She currently teaches in the School of Art at the University of Manitoba.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2:00 PM



FILM

The Light Ahead

Fishker der Krumer

Berney Theatre - Rady JCC - 123 Doncaster Street
\$10 Members | \$12 Non-Members

USA | 1939 | 94 MINUTES | B&W | YIDDISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES | PRODUCED & DIRECTED BY EDGAR G. ULMER

The Light Ahead is both a touching comedic drama and a poignant social commentary. It is one of the great films of the American Yiddish pre WWII Cinema. The film follows Fishke and Hodel, a young couple with disabilities, as they strive to escape the oppressive disease and poverty of their shtetl. They are aided by Mendele, a local bookseller who harnesses the town's strong belief in superstition to work in their favor by brokering a black wedding to ward off the shtetl's cholera epidemic. The film is directed by Edgar G. Ulmer, one of the most unique directors of Yiddish Cinema (who would go on to create the masterpiece of Film Noir *Detour*) and features a large ensemble cast from New York's Yiddish Art Theatres.

"A gem radiating warmth and honesty." – JEWISH WEEKLY

"Beverley and Opatoshu are perhaps the most beautiful couple in the history of Yiddish cinema, and their scenes have a touching erotic chemistry."

– J. HOBERMAN, BRIDGE OF LIGHT: YIDDISH FILM BETWEEN TWO WORLDS

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 7:30 PM



CONCERT

Beyond the Pale

Berney Theatre - Rady JCC - 123 Doncaster Street
\$25 Members | \$30 Non-Members

Many of us can't think Yiddish and music without thinking of the playful rhythms of classic Klezmer! Well, hold on to your hats because Beyond the Pale will satisfy your Klezmer craving while adding many daring twists of their own. Led by Eric Stein on vocals (English and Yiddish) and mandolin, award winning Toronto based Beyond the Pale showcases a fusion of Klezmer and Balkan styles woven together with subtle and exotic hints of bluegrass, jazz, classical, and even reggae to create a vast and adventurous musical landscape. Their stellar musicianship, dynamic compositions, and inventive arrangements of traditional songs make them one of Canada's most innovative ensembles and will make this a show to remember!