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## Atlanta Jewish Film Festival Announces Full 2018 Lineup with Over 75 Films Selected

**ATLANTA:** The Atlanta Jewish Film Festival (AJFF) has announced its full lineup and official schedule for the 18<sup>th</sup> annual event, returning for 23 days from **January 24** through **February 15**. The lineup, schedule, and program guides can now be viewed at [AJFF.org](http://AJFF.org).

The 2018 festival will present **192 screenings**, with an international collection of 76 narratives and documentaries from 27 countries, at various Atlanta venues including Cobb Energy Performing Arts Centre, Perimeter Point 10, Atlantic Station Stadium 18 IMAX & RPX, Hollywood Stadium 24, The Springs Cinema & Taphouse, Tara Cinemas 4, and The Woodruff Arts Center. To continue AJFF's mission to generate community dialogue through film, screenings will include post-film Q&A conversations with both familiar and new filmmakers, actors, community leaders, and academics, creating an experience set apart from traditional movie outings. This year will bring special guests such as comedian **Gilbert Gottfried** and director **Neil Berkeley** for *Gilbert*; **Ferenc Torok**, director for *1945*; **Astrid Schult**, director for *Winter Hunt*; and **Ofir Raul Graizer**, director for *The Cakemaker*; and **Amichai Greenberg**, director for *The Testament*.

"We are proud to continue an 18-year tradition by bringing the most diverse and compelling films from around the globe," says Kenny Blank, Executive Director of AJFF. "There is a universality to the stories told in this year's lineup, with both sweeping and epic stories, personal narratives, unconventional perspectives, and stories that intersect with other communities. Our annual festival truly provides something for everyone."

Moviegoers can expect to find diverse films about biographies, the arts, women's stories, social justice, African-American life, romance, LGBTQ, American Jewish life, anti-Semitism, and more. Opening Night kicks off with the Southeast Premiere, ***Sammy Davis, Jr.: I've Gotta Be Me***, a rousing tribute to the iconic song-and-dance man in all his complexities and contradictions. The film will be followed by discussion with award-winning filmmaker, **Sam Pollard**.

The festival brings a number of world, U.S., and Southeast Premieres including:

<b>116 Cameras</b> (Atlanta)	<b>Gilbert</b> (Atlanta)	<b>Playing God</b> (Southeast)
<b>1945</b> (Atlanta)	<b>Good Thoughts, Good Words, Good Deeds: The</b>	<b>A Quiet Heart</b> (Atlanta)
<b>Above Drowning Sea</b> (East Coast)	<b>Conductor Zubin Mehta</b> (Atlanta)	<b>Remember Baghdad</b> (Atlanta)
<b>Almost Famous</b> (East Coast)	<b>Heading Home: The Tale of Team Israel</b>	<b>Russian Jews</b> (North American)
<b>An Act of Defiance</b> (Atlanta)	(World)	<b>Sammy Davis, Jr.: I've Gotta Be Me</b> (Southeast)
<b>A Bag of Marbles</b> (Southeast)	<b>The History of Love</b> (Atlanta)	<b>Saving Neta</b> (Southeast)
<b>The Body Collector</b> (Atlanta)	<b>The Invisibles</b> (Atlanta)	<b>Scaffolding</b> (Atlanta)
<b>The Cakemaker</b> (Atlanta)	<b>Iom Romi</b> (Southeast)	<b>Shalom Bollywood: The Untold Story of Indian</b>
<b>Bombshell: The Hedy Lamarr</b>	<b>Itzhak</b> (Atlanta)	<b>Cinema</b> (Atlanta)
<b>Story</b> (Atlanta)	<b>Keep the Change</b> (Southeast)	<b>Shelter</b> (Atlanta)
<b>The Boy Downstairs</b> (Atlanta)	<b>The Last Suit</b> (Atlanta)	<b>Take My Nose... Please!</b> (Atlanta)
<b>Budapest Noir</b> (East Coast)	<b>Let Yourself Go</b> (Atlanta)	<b>The Testament</b> (Atlanta)
<b>Bye Bye Germany</b> (Atlanta)	<b>Longing</b> (Atlanta)	<b>The Twinning Reaction</b> (Atlanta)
<b>Challah Rising in the Desert: The</b>	<b>The Mighty Atom</b> (Southeast)	<b>Winter Hunt</b> (Atlanta)
<b>Jews of New Mexico</b> (Southeast)	<b>Mr. &amp; Mrs. Adelman</b> (Atlanta)	
<b>GI Jews: Jewish Americans in</b>	<b>On My Way Out: The Secret Life of Nani and</b>	
<b>World War II</b> (Atlanta)	<b>Popi</b> (U.S.)	

Film is arguably at its finest when transporting you into taut stories of high drama. This year's lineup does this again and again, taking audiences from noir dark alleys of the 1930s to the jungles of the Amazon, you'll leave the theater moved and provoked to thought.

While AJFF films are generally mostly suited for adults, AJFF knows that a trip to the movies can create unforgettable memories for young people and their parents. There are a number selections that offer stories, characters and educational experiences that bring family together, such as the Israeli teen dramedy, ***Almost Famous***, and a moving adventure about the endurance of family, ***A Bag of Marbles***.

A number of films tackle issues of topical concern: *The Cakemaker* documents **unconventional relationships**, while *An Act of Defiance* explores **race relations**. Several films dive into **political-religious extremism**, from *The Cousin* to *Shelter* to *Remember Baghdad*.

Sports fanatics have plenty to discover, with a stirring story of patriotism, sports and personal growth in *Heading Home: The Tale of Team Israel*; *The Mighty Atom*, an inspiring profile of a real-life superman who dazzled audiences with his remarkable feats of strength and daredevil strengths; and *Let Yourself Go*, an Italian comedy that features a self-involved aging psychoanalyst (Toni Servillo) that has his tightly ordered world thrown for a loop by a high-spirited fitness instructor.

Arts lovers can become inspired with *Good Thoughts, Good Words, Good Deeds: The Conductor Zubin Mehta* that celebrates the touchstones and dazzling international career of a musical maestro; along with *Itzhak, Gilbert, Funny Girl*, a 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Classic Film Series screening, *Dreaming of a Jewish Christmas*, *Almost Famous*, and *Bombshell: The Hedy Lamarr Story*.

Tickets go on sale via [AJFF.org](http://AJFF.org) beginning **Wednesday, January 17**. Ticket prices include:

- \$36 for Opening Night General Admission (includes complimentary parking and film)
- \$36 for Young Professionals Night, Presented by ACCESS (includes pre-show party and film)
- \$36 for Closing Night (includes complimentary parking, film, and post-screening dessert reception)
- \$12 for Matinee
- \$13 for Seniors/Students/Children
- \$15 for General Admission

For more information, visit [AJFF.org](http://AJFF.org). Stay connected via social media on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), and [Instagram](#) and use #AJFF2018.

**About Atlanta Jewish Film Festival:** AJFF's mission is to entertain and engage diverse audiences with film through a Jewish lens while simultaneously challenging conventional perspectives on culture and history, life in Israel, and the work of Jewish artists—particularly where these stories intersect with other communities. AJFF features year-round programs, including several tent pole events such as its annual Film Festival, AJFF Selects, AJFF On Campus, Cinebash, and the Icon Award for Contributions to the Cinematic Arts. In addition to its core programs, AJFF continues to work alongside its many partner organizations to support the greater Atlanta community while raising the bar for film festivals worldwide. Founded by the Atlanta Regional Office of American Jewish Committee (AJC) in 2000, since 2014, AJFF has operated as an independent non-profit arts organization that continues an active partnership with its founding agency, American Jewish Committee.

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