

# Israeli film festival offers online screenings June 10-21

Irwin Block

The popular Festival du Cinéma Israélien de Montréal will be returning for a 15<sup>th</sup> year in June with a broad range of film, but because of the Coronavirus-19 restrictions, its 20 selections will not be shown at the AMC Forum.

Instead, they will be made available online to those who purchase a \$20 passport for showings from June 10 to 21. It is only available to Quebec residents.

To purchase a passport, go to the festival website [fcim.ca/en/](http://fcim.ca/en/) and click on box office. That passport gives you access to streaming the 20 selections anytime during the 12-day period – six feature-length films, eight documentaries, four older classics, and a two-part showing of a series on the life of the late Israeli Defence Minister Moshe Dayan and his family. All the films, mainly in Hebrew, have English subtitles.

“This year is exceptional,” said festival coordinator Georgette Bensimon. Though public screenings were not possible, co-chairs Gérard and Chantal Buzaglo insisted on going ahead in a virtual format, given that the movies had been selected and arrangements made with distributors. Jacques Saada, president of the main sponsoring organization, Communauté Sépharade Unifiée

du Québec, agreed. Purchase of the passport gets you a code, which gives you access to the films when you log in. But you can only get access once to see each film. You can decide to watch any of the films anytime, in any order during the 12 days, but Bensimon advises giving priority to the films you are most eager to see. The distributors have limited the number of clicks for their films.

A seven-member jury will award prizes to the best feature and documentary productions.

## Feature films in the lineup

**The End of Love**, in French with English and Hebrew subtitles, follows an Israeli expat and his French partner as he returns to Israel and they communicate via video-chat.

**Love Trilogy: Chained** tracks the private life of police officer Rashi when it is upended by a sudden loss of authority in his work.

**Love in Suspenders** follows a widow and widower who in spite of differences find love.

**MOSSAD!** is an action/comedy about efforts by Mossad and CIA agents to rescue a kidnapped American tech-billionaire.

**Art of Waiting** is a comedy/drama is about the complexities that develop after a couple is told they will need fertility treatment to have a child.

**The Day After I'm Gone** depicts

the struggle of a single father as he tries to help his suicidal teenaged daughter.

## Documentaries to be shown

**Menachim Begin: Peace and War** celebrates the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1979 Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty and major achievements of Israel's sixth prime minister.

**Golda** traces the rise of Israel's first female prime minister and her decline with her government's errors in judgment in failing to anticipate the Yom Kippur war.

**Ma'abarot** looks at the transit camps that the nascent Israeli state set up to accommodate immigrants and refugees contributing to the divide between Ashkenazic and Sephardic Jews.

**The Forgotten Ones** recounts the extermination of the Jews of each region of former Yugoslavia, and the German role in it, as told by Stella, an Israeli whose Muslim great-grandfather saved Jewish lives.

**The Prophet** is the story of extremist Rabbi Meir Kahane, who

founded the Jewish Defence League, moved to Israel, and was barred from sitting in The Knesset because of his racist rhetoric. He was assassinated in 1990.

**Mrs. G.** is about Lea Gottlieb, designer, founder, and owner of the Gottex Swimwear empire, and her complex relationship with her two daughters.

**Transkids** follows four Israeli teens through gender re-assignment in a militaristic society where everyone joins the army and religion is ever present.

**Aulcie** is the saga of basketball legend Aulcie Perry who was recruited in Harlem, brought to Israel and then led Maccabi Tel Aviv to unexpected wins at the European Championship. He converted to Judaism and became an Israeli citizen.

**Dayan: The First Family** is a two-part screening on the life and times of Moshe Dayan, the charismatic and controversial defence minister whose image became synonymous with Israeli military prowess.

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