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ENZIAN PRESENTS THE 21ST ANNUAL CENTRAL FLORIDA JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL

Orlando, FL – (October 28, 2019) – The 21st Annual Central Florida Jewish Film Festival, taking place November 9th–12th, is a cinematic celebration of Jewish life, culture, and history. Using the power of film to inform, educate, and most of all entertain, the festival challenges conventional perspectives on issues facing all of us. This program is part of Enzian's cultural festival circuit and is co-presented with The Roth Family Jewish Community Center of Greater Orlando.

Matthew Curtis, Programming Director of Enzian said, “We are so excited to be presenting our largest program to date in this year’s 21st annual Central Florida Jewish Film Festival. By adding a day to the festival, we are able to showcase six extraordinary features this year and one Israeli Oscar-nominated short. Many of these are multiple award winners, all are making their local premieres, and there are films in English, Hebrew, Arabic, Spanish, German, Slovak, and Russian. This group of films is the most diverse and formidable we’ve ever put together for this event, and we couldn’t be more thrilled!”

Mensch Passes and Series Passes are available. Individual tickets to all six films are also available.

A special menu will also be offered throughout the festival at Enzian, including: Spinach & Cheese Knishes, Latkes, Holishkes, Hebrew National Hot Dogs, and Beef, Carrot, & Sweet Potato Tzimmes.

WHAT:

[LOVE IN SUSPENDERS](#)

Saturday, November 9th at 7:30PM at the Orlando Science Center CineDome

Tami is a widow in her 60s and Beno is a widower in his 70s. She is optimistic, always smiling, and still talking to her husband who has been dead for a few years already. Sarcastic lone wolf Beno is tougher on the outside, but also still suffering from the loss of his wife. Tami and her husband were successful singers, so now she lives comfortably in a beautiful retirement home. Beno, on the other hand, is finding it hard to pay the monthly rent. Notwithstanding their differences in lifestyle and personality, and their interfering offspring and neighbors, they eventually fall in love. Israeli Oscar-winner Shlomo Bar-Aba (*Footnote*) gives a heartwarming performance as Tammy’s late husband, who refuses to let her go in this delightful romantic comedy with echoes of Jorge Amado and Bruno Barreto’s *Dona Flor and Her Two Husbands*.

Israel, 2019, 98 min, Directed by Jorge Weller, Not Rated, In Hebrew with English subtitles

Preceded by HOW TO SWIM

Young, extremely pregnant, and in need of a mentor, Abigail tricks an older woman into hanging out with her for an afternoon. Nominated for Best Short Film by the Israeli Film Academy, this is a touching, comic, and insightful slice of life.

Israel, 2018, 15 min, Directed by Noa Gusakov, In Hebrew with English subtitles

THE SPY BEHIND HOME PLATE

Sunday, November 10th at 11AM at Enzian Theater

Aviva Kempner's new film is the first feature-length documentary to tell the real story of Morris "Moe" Berg, the enigmatic and brilliant Jewish baseball player turned spy. Berg caught and fielded in the major leagues during baseball's Golden Age in the 1920s and 1930s. But very few people know that Berg also worked for the Office of Strategic Services (OSS), spying in Europe and playing a prominent role in America's efforts to undermine the German atomic bomb program during WWII. THE SPY BEHIND HOME PLATE reveals the life of this unknown Jewish hero through rare historical footage and photographs as well as revealing interviews with an All-Star roster of celebrities and other individuals from the worlds of sports, spycraft, and history. Berg may have had only a .243 batting average during his 15-year major league career, but it was the stats he collected for the OSS that made him a most valuable player to his country during World War II.

USA, 2019, 101 min, Directed by Aviva Kempner, Not Rated, In English

LEONA

Sunday, November 10th at 2PM at Enzian Theater

Coming into her own, a young Jewish woman from Mexico City finds herself torn between her Syrian-Jewish family and a forbidden love in this delicate, melancholic romance. Best Actress-winner at the Morelia International Film Festival, co-writer/co-producer Naian Gonzalez Norvind gives an intimate, honest portrayal of Ariela, an independently-minded artist living with her family in a cloistered Jewish neighborhood. Pressured to find an appropriate suitor, serendipity leads to a passionate courtship with Ivan, a non-Jewish writer who shows her a world of possibilities beyond her sheltered life. As their feelings deepen, Ariela must weigh their unsanctioned relationship against rejection by her family and community, where religious values and traditions run deep. Bridging the divide between generations and cultures, writer-director Isaac Cherem's directorial debut deftly blends romantic comedy with an incisive feminist journey of discovery and self-determination.

Mexico, 2018, 95 min, Directed by Isaac Cherem, Not Rated, In Spanish with English subtitles

THE INTERPRETER

Monday, November 11th at 4PM at Enzian Theater

Slovakia's official entry for the Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film, THE INTERPRETER is a bittersweet, tragicomic road trip of remembrance, trauma, and guilt filmed against the astoundingly beautiful backdrop of the Carpathian Mountains. When elderly Ali (master Czech director Jiri Menzel, *Closely Watched Trains*) shows up at a doorstep in Austria with a gun in hand, he expects to assassinate the man responsible for his parents' execution. Instead, he finds the man's womanizing son, Georg (Peter Simonischek, *Toni Erdmann*), a 70-year-old former teacher who offers to pay Ali to accompany him on a journey through Slovakia and serve as his translator. Seeking to come to terms with his father's dark past, Georg tasks Ali with translating the

documents contained within his father's journals and investigating the inscriptions written on the back of aged photographs. The odd couple sets out on a journey to the past through the countryside of Slovakia to unearth their intertwined stories. Slovakia/Czech Republic/Austria, 2018, 113 min, Directed by Martin Sulik, Not Rated, In German, Slovak, and Russian with English subtitles

TEL AVIV ON FIRE

Monday, November 11th at 7PM at Enzian Theater

Israel/Palestine, today. Salam, a charming 30-year-old Palestinian living in Jerusalem, works as a trainee on the Palestinian popular soap opera "Tel Aviv on Fire", produced in Ramallah. Every day, to reach the TV studios, Salam has to go through a rather difficult Israeli checkpoint. There he meets the commander of the checkpoint, Assi, whose wife is a big fan of the show. In order to please him, Assi puts pressure on Salam to change the end of the story, and Salam quickly realizes that Assi's ideas could be beneficial to him as a budding screenwriter. Salam's creative career is suddenly on the rise, until Assi and the soap opera producers and financiers disagree on how the season should end. Stuck between an army colonel and Arab support, Salam can only solve his problems with a final master stroke. A sharp-eyed and timely comedy that crosses borders and breaks boundaries, TEL AVIV ON FIRE won Best Film awards at Venice, Seattle and Haifa, and Best Actor (Horizons) at Venice.

Luxembourg/France/Israel/Belgium, 2018, 97 min, Directed by Sameh Zoabi, Not Rated, In Arabic and Hebrew with English subtitles

THE REPORTS ON SARAH AND SALEEM

Tuesday, November 12th at 7PM at the Orlando Science Center Digital Adventure Theater

Sarah, an Israeli café owner living in West Jerusalem, has a clandestine relationship with Saleem, a Palestinian bread vendor, who lives in East Jerusalem. When their spouses discover the affair, two lives — already divided by politics, culture, class and marital commitments — are made infinitely more complicated. A not uncommon betrayal takes an entirely sinister new twist as Israeli and Palestinian authorities misread the writing on the wall. Muayad Alayan's psychological thriller, based on true events, is shot through with dark, entirely believable intrigue that gives new meaning to the adage "the personal is political." Winner of the Grand Jury Prize for Best Feature at Seattle and a Special Jury Prize for Best Screenplay and the Audience Award at Rotterdam, THE REPORTS ON SARAH AND SALEEM is gripping and morally complex entertainment that shows how political tensions can seep into everyday life in unexpected ways.

Palestinian Territories/Germany/Netherlands/Mexico, 2018, 127 min, Directed by Muayad Alayan, Not Rated, In Arabic, English and Hebrew with English subtitles

TICKETS:

Mensch Pass - **\$118** (All 6 films, First Priority Seating, Doors open 30 minutes early)
Series Pass - **\$66** (All 6 films, Discounted Admission, 2nd Priority Seating after Mensch Passes)

Individual Tickets - \$12 (3rd Seating)

Group Rates (20 or more) - \$1 discount on individual ticket

Table Reservations are not available for this event.

WHERE: **Enzian Theater**, 1300 South Orlando Avenue, Maitland, FL 32751
Orlando Science Center, 777 E. Princeton St, Orlando, FL 32803 (For LOVE IN
SUSPENDERS and THE REPORTS ON SARAH AND SALEEM screenings)

INFO: Enzian is Central Florida's only full-time, not-for-profit cinema for first-run independent and international film, classic revivals, documentary features, and select family entertainment. Enzian, a member-supported organization serving the community for more than 34 years, is home to the Florida Film Festival and Eden Bar. For additional information, visit Enzian.org or call general information at (407) 629-1088.

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