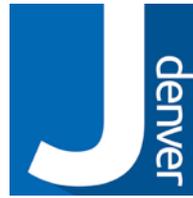


**FOR IMMEDIATE DISTRIBUTION**

STURM FAMILY FOUNDATION PRESENTS  
**DENVER JEWISH  
FILM FESTIVAL**



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**The 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Denver Jewish Film Festival Features 43 Films Showing  
February 5-19, 2020**

*Films cover a variety of topics showcasing Israeli and Jewish cinema from 12 countries*

**DENVER, Colo., January 15, 2020** – The 24<sup>th</sup> Annual [JCC Mizel Arts and Culture Center's Denver Jewish Film Festival](#) presented by the Sturm Family Foundation takes place February 5-19, 2020. The festival includes 43 films showcasing Israeli and Jewish cinema from around the globe, featuring 16 Denver premieres, six Colorado premieres and 14 Rocky Mountain premieres.

“The Denver Jewish Film Festival provides an opportunity for people of all faiths and backgrounds, film lovers and international film buffs to watch a variety of one-of-a-kind movies that are not available in other theaters in Colorado,” said Steve Wilson, executive artistic director of the JCC Mizel Arts and Culture Center. “We are thrilled to announce the incredible line-up of films in the 2020 film festival.”

The festival kicks off on Feb. 5 at 6 p.m. with a VIP reception and a screening of *Crescendo* (Drama, 2019) at 7 p.m. The film is about a world famous conductor who tries to create an Israeli-Palestinian orchestra, taking all his skill and resources to overcome the discord and get them to play in harmony.

Films shown at the Festival are from 12 countries including Belgium, Canada, Ethiopia, France, Germany, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Luxembourg, Mexico, UK and the USA. The festival includes films about a variety of topics including coming-of-age debuts (*Fig Tree; Leona*); intergenerational heart-warmers (*Witness Theater; Shoelaces; Back to Maracanã*); a slew of biographies, from the story of a baseball-playing spy (*The Spy Behind Home Plate*) and a basketball icon (*Aulcie*), to a fashion designer (*Mrs. G*), Israeli politicians (*King Bibi; Golda*), a media mogul (*Joseph Pulitzer: Voice of the People*), a daring wildlife photographer (*Picture of His Life*), a French novelist (*Promise at Dawn*), and even record label founders (*It Must Swing! The Blue Note Story*).

A handful of featured films include:

- *Crescendo* (Feb. 5 at 7 p.m.)

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- Drama, 2019. When a world famous conductor tries to create an Israeli-Palestinian orchestra, it takes all his skill and resources to overcome the discord and get them to play in harmony.
- *Golda's Balcony, the Film* (Feb. 8 at 7 p.m.)
  - Drama, 2019. A riveting portrait of one of the great women of our time, portrayed Off-Broadway by the legendary actress Tovah Feldshuh. Producer Dave Fishelson will be in attendance at this show.
- *Standing Up, Falling Down* (Feb. 8 at 9:15 p.m.)
  - Comedy, 2019. A failing stand-up comedian Ben Schwartz (from *Parks and Recreation*) and an alcoholic dermatologist (Billy Crystal) give each other the confidence to face the failures in their lives. Director Matt Ratner will be in attendance at this show.
- *Picture of His Life* (Feb. 10 at 7 p.m.)
  - Documentary, 2019. World-renowned wildlife photographer Amos Nachoum dreams of photographing a polar bear underwater. Writer/Director Dani Menkin will be in attendance at this event.
- *Aulcie* (Feb. 15 at 7 p.m. and an encore on Feb. 19 at 7:30 p.m.)
  - Documentary, 2020. The inspiring story of Aulcie Perry, a basketball legend who led Maccabi Tel Aviv to an upset win in the European Championship.

Additional Festival highlights of note include:

- Films from ten female filmmakers
- Seven first time feature filmmakers
- The first public screening of the short film titled *Keh Hee Lah* by University of Denver student, Myles Goldstein, showing on Feb. 16
- 24 award-winning films
- Two foreign language Oscar submissions, from Hungary and Luxembourg
- Coming-of-age dramas from Ethiopia and Mexico
- Films highlighting environmental justice to honor the Jewish holiday Tu B'shvat on Feb. 10

The premiere of [Anne Frank: Parallel Stories](https://www.jccdenver.org/anne-frank-parallel-stories/) featuring Helen Mirren will be shown as a prologue to the festival on Sunday, January 26 at 3 p.m. The film will be playing at the Alamo Drafthouse Cinema in Sloan's Lake. For tickets visit <https://www.jccdenver.org/anne-frank-parallel-stories/>

Seating for all films is reserved. Tickets to each film cost \$14 for adults, \$12 for seniors and students. Multi-film festival passes are also available for purchase at varying costs. Festival tickets can be purchased at [www.jccdenver.org/film](http://www.jccdenver.org/film).

The JCC Mizel Arts and Culture Center box office is located at 350 S. Dahlia Street in the Staenberg-Loup Jewish Community Center lobby and is open for phone inquiries Monday through Friday from 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. and 1 p.m. - 5 p.m. for walk-up business. The box office at the JCC Mizel Arts and Culture Center is open one hour before all screenings. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit [www.jccdenver.org/film](http://www.jccdenver.org/film) or call (303) 316-6360.

## ABOUT JCC MIZEL ARTS AND CULTURE CENTER

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As one of the Rocky Mountain region's premier arts organizations, the [JCC Mizel Arts and Culture Center](#) illuminates the human experience through creative and cultural programs in the performing, visual, cinematic and literary arts for the Jewish community and the Denver community at-large. The Mizel Arts and Culture Center is a Tier II member of the Scientific and Cultural Facilities District (SCFD) and is guided by a mission that is focused specifically on arts and cultural programs. A variety of programs are offered throughout the year including Denver Jewish Film Festival, JAAMM Fest (Jewish Arts, Authors, Movies and Music Fest), Wolf Theatre Academy and adult art classes. The JCC Mizel Arts and Culture Center is located at 350 S. Dahlia Street in Denver. For more information, visit [www.maccjcc.org](http://www.maccjcc.org) or call 303-316-6360.

### **ABOUT STAENBERG-LOUP JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER**

The [Staenberg – Loup Jewish Community Center](#) (JCC Denver) serves the metro-Denver area through educational, social, cultural, fitness, sports and other programs that are rooted in Jewish values. The JCC Denver's mission is to create a vibrant and inclusive family and social gathering place, guided by these timeless Jewish values. The JCC Denver's four program areas focus on connection, community and well-being and include: a robust fitness, sports, tennis and aquatic center; Early Childhood Engagement, including an Early Learning School and a variety of programs for families; the Mizel Arts and Culture Center which offers JAAMM Fest (Jewish Arts, Authors, Movies & Music), Denver Jewish Film Festival, Wolf Summer Theater Academy and adult art classes; summer camps including Ranch Camp and Camp Shai; Jewish life and learning programs and events, active adult programming like the Grandparent Connect Group, and a new LGBTQ program initiative . The JCC Denver is located at 350 S. Dahlia Street in Denver. For more information, visit [www.jccdenver.org](http://www.jccdenver.org), like us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) @jccdenver or call (303) 399-2660.

### **ABOUT THE STURM FAMILY FOUNDATION**

The Sturm Family Foundation was founded in 2000 by ANB Bank owners Donald and Susan Sturm. Their children Stephen Sturm and Emily Sturm, are currently co-managing directors of the foundation and oversee the family's philanthropic portfolio, which includes the Sturm College of Law at the University of Denver, Judaism Your Way, History Colorado, Arapahoe Community College Sturm Collaboration Campus at Castle Rock and the Denver Art Museum, among others.

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