

Atlantic Jewish Film Festival

November 13-16, 2014
Halifax, Nova Scotia

SCHEDULE
ON PAGES
12-13

**HOW TO RE-ESTABLISH A VODKA EMPIRE
WELCOME... AND OUR CONDOLENCES
THE OUTRAGEOUS SOPHIE TUCKER
THE JEWISH CARDINAL
THE ZIG ZAG KID
CUPCAKES
24 DAYS**

Tickets: \$12 | Students & Seniors: \$10
AJFF Gala Party: \$15

We thank the Atlantic Jewish Council
for its support of Jewish cinema and
for giving a voice to our shared
story of promise, leadership, hope,
loyalty, dedication, courage,
ambition, tradition, innovation,
history and passion.



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2014 Atlantic Jewish Film Festival

WELCOME TO THE AJFF – THE ATLANTIC JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL

Please join us from November 13th to 16th in celebrating Jewish culture through film. **But... you don't have to be Jewish** to enjoy and appreciate these films. They cover many topics of interest to a broad range of people, no matter what your faith or background.

And, don't forget, you're also invited to the GALA PARTY, Saturday evening November 15th.

WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO

The mission of the Atlantic Jewish Film Festival (AJFF) is to provide an opportunity for the public to experience the Jewish world through film. It is presented by the Atlantic Jewish Council, a registered not-for-profit society in Nova Scotia.

Our committee of dedicated volunteers has spent many months searching out the best of the current Jewish-themed films from around the world to entertain and engage you. These include comedies, dramas and documentaries.

The AJFF supports cultural diversity by promoting learning for people of all ages through these films. We have invited knowledgeable guests to lead Q and A sessions after some of the films. We invite you to participate.

JEWISH FILM FESTIVALS AROUND NORTH AMERICA

Throughout North America and around the world, film festivals are a popular form of Jewish expression. Starting with the San Francisco Jewish Film Festival and spreading to cities around the United States and Canada, Jewish film festivals have been engaging diverse audiences in inter-faith dialogue, celebrating diversity and building bridges to better understanding.

Hope to see you there!

••• AJFF COMMITTEE •••

Rosalind Belitsky | Anna Epshtein | Marcie-Ann Gilsig
Jon Goldberg | Edna LeVine | Lynn Rotin | Peggy Walt

2014 Atlantic Jewish Film Festival



PREMIER'S MESSAGE

On behalf of the Province of Nova Scotia, I am pleased to extend a warm welcome to the Atlantic Jewish Film Festival.

From the opening night to the closing film, moviegoers will be entertained. The selection of films is a showcase of exceptional talent, with just the right blend of engaging and progressive films, including comedies, dramas and documentaries to inspire all of us.

Thanks to the Atlantic Jewish Film Festival, we will all have a greater understanding of the Jewish experience through film.

Our government is committed to encouraging artistic innovation and creativity, and we're proud to support initiatives that give Nova Scotians access to a variety of artistic experiences.

I would like to congratulate the organizers and all those involved with the Atlantic Jewish Film Festival.

Sincerely,

Honourable Stephen McNeil, M.L.A.
Premier





2014 Atlantic Jewish Film Festival

GREETINGS FROM THE MAYOR

As Mayor of Halifax, I am delighted to extend warm greetings and a special welcome to everyone attending the 2014 Atlantic Jewish Film Festival.

We have a rich and vibrant arts and culture community here in Halifax. The Atlantic Jewish Film Festival will engage audiences with its celebration of heritage, culture, and diversity of our people by fostering awareness, understanding and appreciation diversity brings to our communities.

I want to acknowledge, with gratitude, the Atlantic Jewish Council, Festival organizers, sponsors and volunteers for making this cinematic experience a success.

We are all made richer by the gifts that are shared on screens large and small. Whether you're an artist, visitor, or resident, you are sure to enjoy the celebration as you experience the Jewish world through film.

Kindest regards,

Mike Savage
Mayor



MINISTER'S MESSAGE

On behalf of the Province of Nova Scotia, it is my pleasure to welcome you to the Atlantic Jewish Film Festival.

Whether you enjoy 'a night at the movies' or documentaries – or both – film is a powerful medium that educates and entertains us. It can impact the way we think, feel and behave.



The Atlantic Jewish Film Festival is the place to be to explore the Jewish experience through film from November 13-16. Moviegoers are sure to enjoy the four days of screenings, events, special presentations, and more.

The Province of Nova Scotia is pleased to be a supporter of the Atlantic Jewish Film Festival. We are dedicated to growing our film industry, as well as developing and promoting a strong overall cultural industry in the province.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and congratulations to the festival organizers and volunteers for producing such a wonderful event.

Sincerely,



Tony Ince,
Minister of Communities, Culture and Heritage
and the Minister of African Nova Scotian Affairs



2014 Atlantic Jewish Film Festival

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Atlantic Film Festival

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2014 Atlantic Jewish Film Festival



TICKET PRICES

Tickets: \$12 | Students & Seniors: \$10 | AJFF Gala Party: \$15

TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE

Online at ticketatlantic.com | Atlantic Superstore Ticket Outlets

Purchase by Phone: 902-451-1221 | Toll free: 877-451-1221

Ticket Atlantic Box Office: Scotiabank Centre *Carmichael & Duke Street entrances*

Don't be disappointed... Purchase your tickets early!

PARKING

Free Parking at the Museum of Natural History during AJFF screenings

VENUE ADDRESSES

Cineplex Cinemas Park Lane: 5657 Spring Garden Road, Halifax, Nova Scotia

Museum of Natural History: 1747 Summer Street, Halifax, Nova Scotia

Films, venues and times are subject to change. Updates available at AJFF.ca

The poster features a painting of a nude figure with a reddish-pink body and a yellow head, set against a background of blue and white textured brushstrokes. The text on the right side of the poster reads: "David Urban", "Nov 7 – Dec 3 2014", "STUDIO 21 FINE ART", "1273 Hollis Street", "Halifax, Nova Scotia", "studio21.ca 902.420.1852". A red vertical bar on the bottom right contains the "Studio 21" logo in white script.



2014 Atlantic Jewish Film Festival



THE JEWISH CARDINAL

French with English subtitles

Director: Ilan Duran Cohen

Producers: Ilan Duran Cohen, Joey Färe

Cast: Laurent Lucas, Aurelien Recoing, Audrey Dana

Writers: Ilan Duran Cohen, Chantal Derudder

Distributor: Film Movement

Country: France **Year:** 2013 **Run Time:** 90 minutes

The Jewish Cardinal tells the true story of Jean-Marie Lustiger, the son of Polish-Jewish immigrants, who maintained his cultural identity as a Jew even after converting to Catholicism at a young age, and later joining the priesthood. Lustiger rose quickly within the ranks of the church and was appointed Archbishop of Paris by Pope Jean Paul II. Here he finds a new platform to celebrate his dual identity as a Catholic Jew, gaining friends and enemies from both groups. When Carmelite nuns install a convent very close to Auschwitz, Lustiger finds himself a mediator between the two communities. Finally, he might have to choose sides.

2014 Atlantic Jewish Film Festival



Known as the “Last of the Red Hot Mamas,” Sophie Tucker and her smokey voice worked through vaudeville, the first talking motion pictures, and eventually television. She inspired stars like Bette Midler and Judy Garland, and may be one of the most important names in jazz and blues you’ve never heard of. Before Mae West, Marilyn Monroe, Madonna and Lady Gaga, Sophie Tucker was the first woman to infatuate her audiences with her bold, bawdy and brassy style unlike any other previous performer.

THE OUTRAGEOUS SOPHIE TUCKER

Director: William Gazecki

Producers: Lloyd Ecker and Susan Ecker

Featuring: Barbara Walters, Carol Channing, Shecky Greene, Tony Bennett and Michael Feinstein, with cameos by Paul Anka, Chubby Checker, Brenda Lee, Mickey Rooney, Connie Stevens, and Mamie van Duren

Distributor: Menemsha Films

Country: USA **Year:** 2014 **Run Time:** 96 minutes

Born into an Orthodox Jewish family, Sophie wasn’t what you would expect for a star. She wasn’t exactly beautiful, but her voice, attitude and humour were enough to pack the house.

Producers Lloyd and Susan Ecker take us on a seven year journey retracing Tucker’s 60 year show business career. Sophie Tucker died of a lung ailment and kidney failure on February 9, 1966, in New York at age 79. Tucker had continued working up until the months before her death, playing shows at the Latin Quarter just weeks before she died. She is buried in Emmanuel Cemetery in Wethersfield, Connecticut, her home state.



2014 Atlantic Jewish Film Festival



"How to Re-establish a Vodka Empire is a meditation on loss and identity and a celebration of family and life itself, cleverly disguised as a screwball business adventure. This film is so special to me as it has allowed me to explore my family's rich history and discover beautiful and tragic stories I could never have guessed were just below the surface. It's a very personal story of me and my grandmother Maroussia Zorokovich, but I do hope it will speak to audiences in a universal way."

– Dan Edelstyn, Director

HOW TO RE-ESTABLISH A VODKA EMPIRE

Director: Daniel Edelstyn

Producers: Daniel Edelstyn, Christopher Hird, Hilary Powell

Cast: Anthony Styles, Conrad Asquith, Dan Edelstyn, Hilary Powell

Writer: Daniel Edelstyn

Distributors: The National Center for Jewish Film, Brandeis University

Country: UK **Year:** 2012 **Run Time:** 75 minutes

British
filmmaker
Dan Edelstyn
will be in
attendance

British filmmaker Daniel Edelstyn became mildly obsessed after discovering his grandmother's journals in the attic of his family home. Maroussia Zorokovich, born into a wealthy Ukrainian family, was a budding writer before the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution rewrote her destiny and sent her into exile. When Edelstyn travels to the Ukraine in search of his roots and discovers that the vodka distillery opened by his great grandfather in 1904 is still in operation, he decides – despite his lack of business experience – to become a liquor entrepreneur and import the vodka to the UK. This funny, charming documentary employs an ambitious mixture of vérité cinematography and inventive animated sequences created by and starring the artist Hilary Powell (director Edelstyn's wife).

2014 Atlantic Jewish Film Festival



schedule



OPENING FILM
The Jewish Cardinal
French with English Subtitles



**The Outrageous
Sophie Tucker**



**How to Re-establish
a Vodka Empire**

AJFF GALA PARTY – Museum of Natural History



The Zig Zag Kid
English Subtitles



**Welcome... and
our Condolences**
Russian with English Subtitles



FOLLOWED BY
Cupcakes
Hebrew with English Subtitles



CLOSING FILM
24 Days
French with English Subtitles



2014 Atlantic Jewish Film Festival

November 13-16, 2014 • Halifax, Nova Scotia

Tickets: \$12 | Students & Seniors: \$10 | AJFF Gala Party: \$15

Tickets available at Ticket Atlantic (page 8 for details)

Date: Thursday, November 13, 2014
Time: 7:00 pm
Location: Cineplex Cinemas Park Lane
Address: 5657 Spring Garden Road

Director: Ilan Duran Cohen
Country: France
Run Time: 90 minutes
More Information: See page 9

Date: Friday, November 14, 2014
Time: 1:00 pm
Location: Museum of Natural History
Address: 1747 Summer Street

Director: William Gazecki
Country: USA
Run Time: 96 minutes
More Information: See page 10

Date: Saturday, November 15, 2014
Time: 7:30 pm
Location: Museum of Natural History
Address: 1747 Summer Street

Director: Daniel Edelstyn
Country: UK
Run Time: 75 minutes
More Information: See page 11

AJFF GALA PARTY – 9:00 PM to 1:00 AM – See page 14

Date: Sunday, November 16, 2014
Time: 2:00 pm
Location: Museum of Natural History
Address: 1747 Summer Street

Director: Vincent Bal
Country: Belgium/Netherlands
Run Time: 95 minutes
More Information: See page 15

DOUBLE FEATURE

Date: Sunday, November 16, 2014
Time: 4:00 pm
Location: Museum of Natural History
Address: 1747 Summer Street

WELCOME... AND OUR CONDOLENCES
Director: Leon Prudovsky
Country: Israel
Run Time: 26 minutes
CUPCAKES
Director: Eytan Fox
Country: France
Run Time: 100 minutes
More Information: See pages 16-17

Date: Sunday, November 16, 2014
Time: 7:30 pm
Location: Cineplex Cinemas Park Lane
Address: 5657 Spring Garden Road

Director: Alexandre Arcady
Country: France
Run Time: 110 minutes
More Information: See page 19

AMNE

gala party

at the Museum of Natural History
following the screening of

HOW TO RE-ESTABLISH A VODKA EMPIRE

9:00 PM to 1:00 AM

1747 Summer Street Halifax, Nova Scotia

Taste Zorokovich 1917 Vodka with
British filmmaker & vodka entrepreneur
Dan Edelstyn!

Free parking | Food and music

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2014 Atlantic Jewish Film Festival



A witty, spirited and action-packed adventure about an almost-thirteen-year-old boy named Nono, his world of confusions, fears and fantasies...

*Based on the beloved novel by Israeli author David Grossman, the **Zig Zag Kid** uses wit and humour to explore the most fundamental questions of good and evil and to speak directly to adults and teenagers.*

THE ZIG ZAG KID

English subtitles

Director: Vincent Bal

Producers: BosBros, N279 Entertainment

Cast: Isabella Rossellini, Burghart Klaussner, Camille de Pazzis, Edja van Huêt, Jessica Zeylmaker, and Thomas Simon as Nono

Writer: Adapted from David Grossman's novel "The Zigzag Kid"

Distributor: Menemsha Films

Country: Belgium/Netherlands **Year:** 2012 **Run Time:** 95 minutes

Nono longs to be a good detective like his father, a famous police inspector, but his wild nature constantly gets him into trouble. Gaby, his father's secretary, cherishes Nono and recognizes his anguish which comes from his lack of knowledge about his mother who died when he was very young. Two days before his Bar Mitzvah he is sent off to his uncle's home to be disciplined yet again. Once on the train, the over-imaginative boy discovers one last chance to prove himself. Together with international thief Felix Glick, an old acquaintance of his father's, he travels to the French Riviera and enters a world of disguises and crazy pursuits, crossing paths with the famous singer Lola Ciperola (played by Isabelle Rosellini) and Zohara, a mysterious woman whose secrets will forever change Nono's life.

2014 Atlantic Jewish Film Festival



WELCOME... AND OUR CONDOLENCES *Russian with English subtitles*

Director: Leon Prudovsky

Producers: Haim Mecklberg and Estee Yacov-Mecklberg

Cast: Gera Sandler, Ola Schur-Selektar, Irit Kaplan, Eigal Adika

Writer: Leon Prudovsky

Genre: Comedy/Mockumentary

Distributor: Hedva Goldschmidt

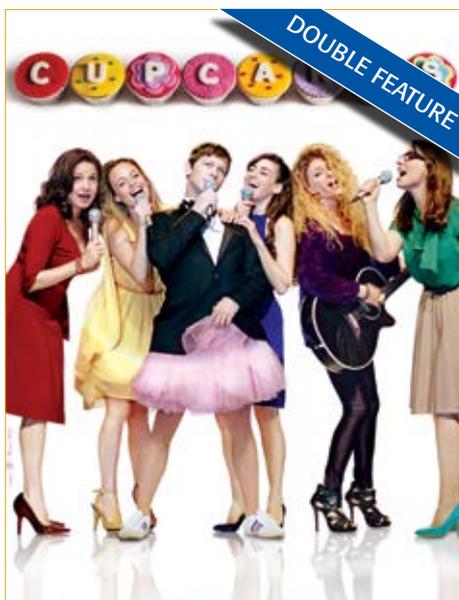
Country: Israel **Year:** 2012 **Run Time:** 26 minutes

The year is 1991. The beginning of the massive Jewish immigration wave from the USSR to Israel. Twelve year old Misha is documenting his family's journey on a home-video camera. The already traumatic immigration experience is enhanced to absurd proportions when the family's old aunt dies on the plane just before they reach the land of their ancestors. Now, the family will have to go through various levels of bureaucracy with an immigrating corpse.



2014 Atlantic Jewish Film Festival

When the night of the Universong final rolls around, they gather to watch and are depressed by the lifelessness of the Israeli entry, a parody of many recent offerings, a flashy, grating song about "amour." After they realize that Anat is distraught over the crisis in her marriage, they compose a song to cheer her up. As a lark, Ofer enters their cellphone video of it in next year's contest, and it becomes Israel's entry.



CUPCAKES

Hebrew with English subtitles

Director: Eytan Fox

Producers: Marco Cherqui, Lauranne Bourrachot, Guy Hameiri, Eitan Abot, Edery Moshe, Edery Leon, Gal Uchovsky, Yoav Roeh

Cast: Anat Waxman, Keren Berger, Ofer Shechter, Efrat Dor, Yael Bar-Zohar, Dana Ivgi, Édouard Baer

Writers: Eli Bijaoui and Eytan Fox

Production Companies: Chic Films, Abot Hameiri + United King Films + Keshet

Country: France **Year:** 2013 **Run Time:** 100 minutes

A group of friends in a Tel Aviv suburb get together to watch Universong, a Eurovision-like television song contest. They'd all like to forget the stress of their daily lives. Yael is a former beauty queen who is unfulfilled by her job as a corporate lawyer; Dana is a stressed-out aide to a cabinet minister and timidly tries to please her traditional father; Anat, has a successful bakery but an unsuccessful marriage; Keren is a shy blogger; Efrat is a frustrated singer-songwriter whose career has stalled; and Ofer is a nursery-school teacher who is upset that his boyfriend, a spokes-model for his family's famous brand of hummus, is still in the closet and won't publicly acknowledge their romance.

Shaar Shalom

CONGREGATION



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2014 Atlantic Jewish Film Festival

January 20, 2006. After Friday night dinner with his family, 23 year old Ilan Halimi called an attractive girl he had met at work and made plans to meet her for coffee. The next time his family heard from him it was through a cryptic on-line message from kidnappers demanding a ransom in exchange for their son's life.



24 DAYS

French with English subtitles

Director: Alexandre Arcady

Producers: Alexandre Films, Orange Studios, New Light Films

Cast: Zabou Breitman, Pascal Elbé, Jacques Gamblin, Sylvie Testud, Éric Caravaca

Writers: Émile Freché, Antoine Lacomble, Alexandre Arcady

Based on the novel by Ruth Halimi

Distributor: Menemsha Films

Country: France **Year:** 2014 **Run Time:** 110 minutes

French director Alexandre Arcady delivers one of the most “wrenching and politically astute” films to come out of France over the past year (Screen Daily). Based on a book co-written by the victim’s mother, Ruth Halimi, Arcady’s cinematic adaptation offers a vicious circle of dangerously realistic events: from the kidnapping and torture of Ilan Halimi at the hands of the Gang of Barbarians, to the 600-plus phone calls, insults, and threats received by the family, through the Parisian police’s incompetence and failure to recognize what was clearly an antisemitic crime.



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