

Reel Israel



Film Festival

Yossi & Jagger

Monday, March 19, 2007 8:00 p.m. Room 137 Bowman Hall

This moving, short film has the focused impact and emotional clarity of a fine short story. A multiple award winner, this unusual love tale, set on a snowy Israeli-Lebanese border facing possible Hezbollah incursions, has an unexpected sweetness and buoyancy. Square-jawed, no-nonsense Yossi, company is the commander of an Israeli Defense Forces unit exhausted from sleepless nights anticipating an ambush. The handsome, fun-loving Jagger, nicknamed for his rock-star appeal, is platoon leader and, unknown to all, Yossi's secret lover. The two arrange trysts by going off together on missions, and while Jagger begs Yossi to leave the army when the former's service is up, Yossi reminds him that real life is not a romantic movie. Director, Eytan Fox's naturalistic touch, and ability to highlight the expansiveness of mature love in the most tragic and ironic of circumstances, is something to marvel at.



Campfire

Wednesday, April 18, 2007 8:00 p.m. Room 177 (Auditorium) Michael Schwartz Center

The year is 1981. Rachel, a 42-year-old widow, mother of two teen daughters, wants to join the founding group of a new religious settlement in the West Bank. The problem is that she won't be accepted unless she proves that she and her daughters meet the group's religious and ideological standards. When her youngest daughter is accused of seducing some boys from her youth movement, Rachel is forced to weigh her alliances. Only Yossi, a 50 year-old bachelor, and the new man in Rachel's life, can show Rachel that living as an outcast is not as bad as it seems. From the director of Time of Favor (winner of six Israeli Academy Awards including Best Picture 2000), comes Campfire, a story of one woman's personal battle, but also a portrait of a political movement that has forever effected millions of lives in the Middle East.



Special Screening

Trembling Before God

Monday, April 30, 2007
8:00 p.m. Rm 137 Bowman Hall

Trembling Before God is a documentary that shatters assumptions about faith, sexuality, and religious fundamentalism. Built around intimately-told personal stories of Hasidic and Orthodox Jews who are gay or lesbian, the film portrays a group of people who face a profound dilemma - how to reconcile their passionate love of Judaism and the Divine with the drastic Biblical prohibitions that forbid homosexuality.



Metallic Blues

Monday, April 23, 2007 8:00 p.m. Room 133 Bowman Hall

Metallic Blues is a touching and amazing tragicomic road-movie, about two Israeli car dealers who risk it all in search of a better life, only to find out the most unexpected personal and historical truths. The opportunity of a lifetime has crossed paths with Shmuel and Siso; or so they think. They invest US\$5,000 in a vintage 1985 Lincoln Continental Limousine and plan to sell it in Germany for €50,000. They ship the car to Germany, and bring themselves and their dreams to Hamburg where their nightmare begins. A film about friendship and reconciliation surrounded with the memories of the dark days in the history of

The Reel Israel Film Festival is a student-run series sponsored by Hillel at Kent State's Grinspoon Internship & the Jewish Studies Program at Kent State. Select screenings are co-sponsored by Queer Liberation Front & the Kent State Feminist Union.

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