



# SAN FRANCISCO JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL 38

july 19–  
august 5  
sfjff.org

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Media contact:** Larsen Associates  
at (415) 957-1205 or  
publicity@larsenassoc.com

This is not the public information  
number. Please do not publish it.

## **WEST COAST PREMIERE OF “SATAN & ADAM” TO HIGHLIGHT LOCAL FILMS AND FILMMAKERS AT THE 38TH SAN FRANCISCO JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL**

**SAN FRANCISCO, June 19, 2018** - The 38th San Francisco Jewish Film Festival, presented by the Jewish Film Institute, will showcase another strong array of local films and filmmakers from the Bay Area highlighted by the West Coast Premiere of V. Scott Balcerek’s **SATAN & ADAM** as the festival Local Spotlight. The festival returns to the Bay Area July 19th to August 5th.

### **Local Spotlight - SATAN & ADAM**

Oakland based filmmaker V. Scott Balcerek will present his film **SATAN & ADAM** as the Local Spotlight presentation making its West Coast Premiere at the Festival following its World Premiere at the 2018 Tribeca Film Festival. In New York City in 1986, Adam, a lanky, young blond-haired guy walks down 125th Street exploring Harlem and sees a grizzled street musician, a one-man band who sings and plays the guitar and percussion with his feet at the same time. He calls himself Mr. Satan and he plays a mean blues. Unexpectedly, the white Jewish kid pulls out a harmonica and asks Satan to jam, and a musical partnership in perfect sync is born. The street musician is Sterling Magee, who is rumored to have played with James Brown, Ray Charles, King Curtis, Etta James and other blues luminaries. Adam believes, despite his Ivy League education, that it was his mission in life to do this. The odd couple are soon killing it at music festivals and other gigs. They cut a record. One of Satan’s tunes ends up on a U2 album. Then, suddenly, Satan drops out of sight. Two years later, the filmmakers find him in St. Petersburg, Florida. The old man had a stroke and can’t play the guitar anymore. But the connection is still strong, and Satan and Adam attempt to reconstitute the act. This documentary captures a fascinating journey of friendship, heartbreak and the transformative power of the blues. The film will screen Sunday, July 22nd at 4:00PM at the CinéArts Theatre in Palo Alto, Saturday, July 28th at 6:20PM at the Castro Theatre in San Francisco, Sunday, July 29th at 6:55PM at the Albany Twin Theatre in Albany, and Friday, August 3rd at 6:00PM at the Christopher B. Smith Rafael Film Center in San Rafael. V. Scott Balcerek will be present for all screenings of the film. Subject Adam Gussow will be present in San Francisco and Albany.

### **Additional Local Films and Filmmakers**

**CHASING PORTRAITS**, a personal documentary that chronicles filmmaker Elizabeth Rynecki’s journey to rediscover the lost art of her Polish-Jewish great-grandfather Moshe Rynecki, will

make its California Premiere at the festival on Wednesday, July 25th at 3:10PM at the CinéArts Theatre in Palo Alto, and Wednesday, August 1st at 1:00PM at the Albany Twin Theater in Albany. Moshe Rynecki's body of work reached close to eight hundred paintings and sculptures before his life came to a tragic end during World War II. Elizabeth Rynecki was raised in Marin and is currently based in Oakland, and will be present for both screenings.

SFJFF38 is also proud to present two local short films produced as part of the Jerusalem Film Workshop for Young Filmmakers. The Workshop is an organization that provides an intensive filmmaking and film studies program in Israel and allows the youth participating to collaborate with international students, meet leaders from Israel's film industry, and produce media. The festival will showcase **JERUSALEM, IF I FORGET YOU**, directed by local filmmaker Rachel Boyoung Kim and **HABESHA**, edited by local filmmaker Michelle Blue. Both films will screen prior to **CHASING PORTRAITS** on Wednesday, July 25th at 3:10PM at the CinéArts Theatre in Palo Alto, and Wednesday, August 1st at 1:00PM at the Albany Twin Theater in Albany.

---

Entering its 38th year, the Festival is expecting an audience of over 40,000 moviegoers at the following theaters; the Castro Theatre in San Francisco, the Albany Twin Theatre in Albany, the Piedmont Theatre in Oakland, the CinéArts Theatre in Palo Alto, and the Christopher B. Smith Rafael Film Center in San Rafael.

For general and ticket information, visit [sfjff.org](http://sfjff.org) or email [jewishfilm@sfjff.org](mailto:jewishfilm@sfjff.org). To contact the SFJFF Box Office directly, please email [boxoffice@sfjff.org](mailto:boxoffice@sfjff.org) or call 415.621.0523.

For Festival logos, photos and press materials, visit [jfi.org/press](http://jfi.org/press) or [sfjff.org/press](http://sfjff.org/press). To request interviews or screeners, contact Larsen Associates.

HASHTAGS: **#SFJFF**, **#SFJFF38** and **#SFJEWISHFILM** / **@sfjewishfilm**

Facebook: [facebook.com/sfjewishfilm/](https://facebook.com/sfjewishfilm/)

Twitter: [@SFJewishFilm](https://twitter.com/SFJewishFilm)

Instagram: [@SFJewishFilm](https://www.instagram.com/SFJewishFilm)

YouTube: [youtube.com/sfjewishfilm](https://youtube.com/sfjewishfilm)

Website: [www.jfi.org](http://www.jfi.org) / [www.sfjff.org](http://www.sfjff.org)

### **About the Jewish Film Institute**

The Jewish Film Institute (JFI) is the premier curatorial voice for Jewish film and media and a leading arts and culture organization in the Bay Area. Presenter of the San Francisco Jewish Film Festival, JFI catalyzes and inspires communities in San Francisco and around the world to expand their understanding of Jewish life and culture through film, media, and dialogue. Year round, the Jewish Film Institute promotes awareness and appreciation of the diversity of the Jewish people through multiple mediums – including original online programming that reaches a global audience of over 2 million views. All of these services, along with artists' support and educational initiatives, give audiences around the world even greater access to Jewish culture and the visionaries who shape it.

### **About the San Francisco Jewish Film Festival**

The San Francisco Jewish Film Festival (SFJFF), presented by the Jewish Film Institute, is the largest and longest-running festival of its kind and a leader in the curation and presentation of new film and media exploring the complexities of Jewish life around the world. Presenting more than 65 films and 135 individual screenings, performances and events in five Bay Area cities (San Francisco, Palo Alto, San Rafael, Oakland, Albany), SFJFF attracts more than 40,000 filmgoers and industry professionals to its 18-day program.

### **San Francisco Jewish Film Festival 38 Sponsors**

The Jewish Film Institute and San Francisco Jewish Film Festival wish to thank the **2018 Premier Festival Sponsors** Sterling Bank & Trust and The Seligman Family Foundation.

SFJFF38 wishes to thank its Premier Media Sponsors: the San Francisco Chronicle and SFGATE; its Grand Media Sponsors: J. the Jewish News of Northern California, KQED and The Forward; and its Major Media Sponsors: ABC7/KGO-TV, Berkeleyside.com and the SF Bay Times.

The Festival wishes to thank its Business and Community Sponsors: Berkeley Film Foundation, Britex Fabrics, the Contemporary Jewish Museum, Craig Harrison's Expressions of Excellence™, GoWatchIt, Ingeniux Web Experience Management, Schoenberg Family Law Group, Sinai Memorial Chapel Chevra Kadisha and Wareham Development and Where the Buffalo Roam.

SFJFF38 also recognizes its Hospitality and Events Sponsors: Leftwich Event Specialists, Inc., Ba-Bite, Catch SF, Hagafen Wineries, the Hotel Carlton, Lagunitas Brewing Co., Landmark Theatres, L'Chaim Sushi, Frena Bakery, Little Star Pizza, Melons Catering & Events, Sullivan & Botello Party Rentals, Poesia, Salt & Honey, Saul's Restaurant and Delicatessen, Taste, Wise Sons and Zaytoon Mediterranean Restaurant & Bar.