FILMS IN HEBREW ON VIDEO/DVD

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FEATURE FILMS

*Afula Express: Pick a Card. Vanguard, 1997, VHS, 95 minutes, color, Adult. This is a romantic comedy about an inept, unemployed, car mechanic who leaves his home in Afula and travels to Tel Aviv, where he hopes to fulfill his childhood dream of becoming a magician.

*Beyond the Wall. Warner Home Video, 1984, VHS, 103 minutes, Adult. The struggle between Arabs and Jews who are confined in an overcrowded Israeli prison is brutally portrayed in this violent film.

*Bonjour Monsieur Shlomi. Strand, 2004, DVD, 94 minutes, color, High School up. A comedy about an adolescent boy from a dysfunctional family who cooks and takes care of most of the family's household chores instead of developing his own talents. Set in Israel.

*Circus Palestina. SISU, 2000, VHS, 90 minutes, color, Adult.

When a circus troupe stops at a tiny village on the edge of the West Bank, their lion runs away. The search party brings together the unlikely trio of a beautiful Russian lion tamer, a powerful Israeli Army sergeant, and a small Arab boy. Winner of 5 Israeli Academy Awards.

Cup Final. First Run Features, 1993, VHS, 107 minutes, color, High School and up. In June 1982, Israel invaded Lebanon and Cohen, an Israeli soldier with a passion for soccer, is captured by a band of retreating PLO soldiers. Cohen's only solace is that the PLO leader shares his passion for the Italian national soccer team playing in the World Cup tournament. Laced with humor and violence, Cup Final is a subtle story of shared humanity.

Fictitious Marriage. Ergo, 1992, VHS, 90 minutes, color, High School up. A Jerusalem high school teacher, in the midst of a mid-life crisis, goes off to Tel Aviv. There he is mistaken for an Arab laborer and is asked to join an Arab work force on a construction job. This is a powerful study of contemporary Israel; piercing yet humorous.

Flying Camel. SISU Home Entertainment, 2000, VHS, 92 minutes, color, High School up. Bauman, an eccentric professor who collects architectural artifacts, becomes obsessed with a neon flying camel on top of an Arab restaurant. He forms an unusual friendship with an Arab garbage collector and a young Italian nun who help him snatch it from its owners.

Hamsin. Ergo, 1983, VHS, 90 min, color, High School up...

Hamsin explores the Mideast struggle revolving around a Jewish landowner and his Arab workers. After toiling side by side to build a dream ranch in the Galilee, tensions flare when they learn that the Arab land is to be seized by the Israeli government.

Hill 24 Doesn't Answer. Ergo, 1987, VHS, 101 minutes, color, High School up.

In 1948 four Jewish soldiers are assigned to defend strategic Hill 24 outside Jerusalem. Their diverse personal stories provide the viewer with a perspective on the birth of the state.

James' Journey to Jerusalem. Zeitgeist Films, 2004, DVD, 87 min., color, High School up. On a pilgrimage to Israel from his African village, James unwittingly becomes part of an illegal migrant labor force in Tel Aviv. The film is an astute exploration of the economic, moral and spiritual hypocrisies of Western society filtered through a portrait of modern Israel's culture and generational divisions.

*Kadosh. Kino International, 1999, VHS, 110 minutes, color. Adult Directed by Amos Gitai, set in the Mea Sherim quarter of Jerusalem, it explores the life of two sisters. One is forced to divorce according to *halachah* after ten years of a childless marriage and the other is forced into a loveless marriage to a religious fanatic.

Kazablan. Cannon Home Video, 1990, VHS, color. Middle School and up. A large cast of dancers, actors, and singers take us to Jaffa in the 1960's when newcomers from different cultures lived together. Kazablan is a gang leader in love with a girl whose parents don't approve of his lifestyle.

Kippur. Kino, 2001, VHS 123 minutes, color. Adult

The film takes place in 1973, during the Yom Kippur War. The story, as it is told from the perspective of Israeli soldiers, is a portrait of the disorienting senselessness of war and its assault on our sense of humanity.

Kuni Lemel in Tel Aviv. Ergo, 1993, VHS, 90 minutes, color. Middle School up Mike Burstyn is Kuni Lemel, the bungling Jewish folk hero of the shtetl as seen through the lens of present day.

Late Summer Blues. Ergo, 1987, VHS, 101 minutes, color, High School up...

The film takes place during the War of Attrition in the late 1960's and follows a group of graduating high school seniors during their last summer as "kids" before going into the army. Narrated as the reminiscences of a diabetic boy who did not join the army, the film depicts the struggles of his friends as they come to terms individually and collectively with the impending loss of their freedom and possibly their lives in the army.

Nadia. Ergo, 1987, VHS, 90 minutes, color, High School up.

A sixteen year old Arab girl from a village within Israel decides to enroll in a Jewish high school to better her chances of being accepted to medical school. This is a most extraordinary step, particularly for a girl, considering local norms. At the Jewish boarding school, she is confronted by apprehension, resistance and prejudice from both her Arab friends and her new Jewish classmates.

New Land. Sisu. 1998, VHS, 107 minutes, color, High School up.

A young girl and her brother travel from Europe to Israel after the war in search of family, hope, and a future. Placed in a refugee camp on their arrival, they are confronted by a world of colorful characters whose intrigues both terrify and tantalize them.

Operation Thunderbolt. MGM Home Video, VHS, 124 minutes, color, Middle School up.

The story of the hijacked Air France plane forced to land in Entebbe, Uganda and the Israeli commando unit that rescues the hostages.

Over the Ocean. Sisu, 1998, VHS, 89 minutes, color, High School up.

A comedy set in the 60's about a family in flux, a nation in transition, and an age of innocence that is full of opportunities.

*Purple Lawns. 1998, 56 minutes, color, High School up.

The disturbing story of an Orthodox woman, the events leading to her exclusion from her family and community, and the two secular girls that attempt to help her.

*Repeat Dive. Ergo, 2003, VHS, 75 minutes, color, Adult.

A young commando frogman returns from a dangerous mission without his diving buddy and best friend. His obsession with his friend's wife becomes the focus of the film.

*Return from India. Sisu, 2004, VHS, 96 minutes, color, Adult.

Based on a novel by A.B. Yehoshua. A young Israeli doctor travels to India with his boss and the boss's wife, with whom he falls in love. A rocky romantic road is ahead for all concerned.

*Saint Clara. Kino, 1996, VHS, color, 85 minutes, High School up.

An Israeli comedy about a Russian immigrant teenager, whose powers of clairvoyance throws her junior high school into an uproar.

Sallah. Israeli Video Center, 1964, 110 min., B&W, Middle School up.

One of the most famous of all Israeli films, it tells the story of an immigrant family from North Africa and their problems adjusting to Israel while in a transit camp waiting for a permanent home to be given them by the government.

Shehur. Globus, 1994, VHS, 100 minutes, color, no subtitles, High School up.

An award-winning portrait of a traditional Moroccan-Jewish family. Rachel, a popular television broadcaster, suddenly finds herself traveling home for her father's funeral. Her journey home is also a journey into her memories of growing up in a world rooted in primitive superstition, strange memories of her mother (the writer, Gila Almagor) and her developmentally delayed older sister, who solves domestic problems through demons and spirits.

Smile of the Lamb. Ergo, 2003, VHS, 95 minutes, color, Adult.

Two friends dream of an enlightened government on the West Bank, only to be forced into opposite camps because of circumstances beyond their control. The story is based on a book by David Grossman.

*Song of the Siren. Talisma Films/Ergo, 1997, 91 minutes, color, Adult.

Critically acclaimed film, based on the popular novel by Irit Linur. A romantic comedy, set against the background of the stress, hysteria and absurdities of life during the Gulf War of 1991. Quirky and rich in texture, the story of an assertive female advertising executive develops into a story about emotional growth, honest relationships and genuine romance.

Summer of Aviya. Ha Kayitz shel Aviya. 1988, DVD/VHS, 97 minutes, color, Middle School up.

The story of a child's summer at the beginning of Israeli statehood provides a glimpse of society during this period. Based on the book "Under the Domim Tree" by Gila Almagor.

*There was No War in '72. Sisu, 2000, VHS, 88 minutes, color, High School up. A poignant story of a lonely teenager trapped in a troubled home.

Three Days and a Child. Ergo, 1998, VHS, 105 minutes, color, Adult.

Old and new relationships are explored in this film. A young man returns to his kibbutz after army service to find that the woman with whom he is in love has married someone else. When she asks him to take care of her child, their relationship changes once again.

Time for Cherries. Sisu, 2000, VHS, 103 minutes, color, Adult.

An Israeli copywriter called up for reserve duty and an American journalist meet on the battlefield of the Lebanon War. They embark on a surreal journey that reveals the horrifying reality of the war.

Time of Favor. Kino, 2002, DVD,101 minutes, color, High School up.

Winner of six Israeli Academy Awards, this is a complex story of a soldier, a controversial West Bank settlement rabbi and the rabbi's daughter. It raises issues of religious faith and duty to one's nation.

Under Dog. Ergo, 1998, VHS, Color, 85 minutes, Middle School up.

The Hapoel Beit She'an soccer team became the pride of its small town when it made it to the top of the league. The deciding game played against the reigning champion, Maccabi Haifa in 1996 was more than a soccer game. It was about the war between the "haves" and the "have-nots," the small town against the big city, the underdog taking on the seasoned champ.

Under the Domim Tree. Fox Lorber Assoc., 1996, VHS/DVD, 102 minutes, color, Middle School up.

Sequel to *The Summer of Aviya* and based on the personal story of Gila Almagor, it is set in an Israeli boarding school during the 1950's. It reveals the painful struggles of a group of students coming to grips with their memories and experiences of the horrors of war. When life becomes unbearable, the teens find refuge under the beautiful domim tree, a place that provides consolation and renewal.

Wedding in Galilee. Marissa Films, 1987, VHS, 113 minutes, color, High School up. This is a richly-detailed allegory of marriage, tradition, and national identity. The elder of a Palestinian village in Israel is given permission to hold a traditional wedding for his son on the condition that the Israeli military governor and his staff are guests of honor at the ceremony.

*Wooden Gun. Ergo, 1987, VHS, 91 minutes, color, Adult, R-rated.

Set in the tense atmosphere of Tel Aviv of the 1950's, this incisive film focuses on two rival groups of preteens whose behavior, motivated by their interpretations of the concepts of heroism, nationalism and friendship, raise hard questions.

Yana's Friends. 2000, 90 minutes, VHS, color, Adult. No subtitles.

When her husband abandons her, a young Russian woman attempts to survive in Israel on her own. It is a story of passion, temptation, and survival.

Zohar. n.d. VHS, 1hr. 56 minutes, color, Adult. No subtitles. The rise and fall of an Israeli singer is documented in this biographic film.

*Films may contain strong language or nudity. All films should be previewed before class screening.

SHORT FILMS AND TRIGGERS

As if Nothing Happened. 2000, VHS, 60 minutes, color, High School up.

A powerful drama of a family's agonizing wait to hear from their son, an Israeli soldier, who they dropped off at a bus stop moments before a terrorist attack.

Battle of Jenin. Highlight Films, 2002, VHS, 35 minutes.

This is footage taken in the Jenin refuge camp in Jan. 2002 and May 2002, after the fighting had ended. Includes testimonials from both sides; Israeli reserve soldiers and Palestinian militants describe the preparation for battle and the fighting that followed.

Between the Walls - Exiting the Walls. Israel Education TV, 1992, 20 minutes, color, This film provides an interesting way to combine Hebrew language teaching with the history of early Zionism in Israel. The first program on the tape recreates the cultural clash created by the influx of Askenazic Jews into the predominantly Sephardic *yishuv* in Jerusalem at the turn of the nineteenth century. The second program portrays, Yoel Moshe Salomon, who advocated leaving the *yishuv* to work the land, and established the first Jewish settlements in Petach Tikvah and Rosh Pina in 1878.

The Bicycle. Israel, n.d. VHS, 15 minutes, color, 6th Grade up.

The story of a father's dilemma to win the respect and affection of his son by providing him with a bicycle he cannot afford.

Hitchhiker. Ergo, 47 minutes, VHS, 1999, color, High School up.

The essence of modern Israeli society is captured in this film about a man who picks up three hitchhikers, an Orthodox soldier, a free-spirited young woman and an Arab Israeli.

The Little Prince: Ha Nasikh Hakatan. Color animation. No subtitles.

Book in Hebrew is available at the RMC. *The Little Prince* is the heart-warming story of a child in search of happiness on a planet without love.

Road to Jenin. 60 minutes, color.

An account of the Battle of Jenin, what really happened, the media spin and the U.N. bias are all laid out in this disturbing film.

Rothchild Pinat Shenkin. Tzav Peos, 1997, 28 minutes, color.

The film follows two Israelis- one secular, the other Orthodox, comparing and contrasting their different viewpoints on a number of issues.

CHILDREN'S FILMS

Barni: Mispacha Zot Ahava and Yom Haledet Sameach, 30 minutes each, color.

The familiar purple dinosaur will entertain preschool children with Hebrew some vocabulary.

Bigdei Hamelech Hachadashim, 1994, color, 45 Minutes.

The title story plus five others are told in dramatically animated fashion by a storyteller. It includes songs and word repetitions that are useful in teaching vocabulary. It assumes a Hebrew vocabulary of approximately 1000 words.

Bli Sodot #5 and #6. Israeli Educ. Television, 1992, 52 minutes, color.

Letter and word recognition are the foundation of this teaching film.

Bou Nesachek 1 & 2: Let's Play. Ad. Salkin-Vardit Pub. 1993, 120 minutes, color.

A series of music and movement vignettes in Hebrew designed to teach vocabulary and motor skills as well as entertain. The Hebrew words from the songs are subtitled in Hebrew and in English transliteration, neither of which will prove very useful to an American youngster. An Israeli child residing in the U.S. might find this program quite appealing.

Caps for Sale. Weston Woods, 5 minutes, color animation.

This video contains a Hebrew version of this classic children's tale followed by the English version.

David and Goliath. Hannah Barbra Prod., 1987, VHS, 30 minutes, color animation.

Time travel Bible story set during the days of David.

Etzleinu Bapsanter (Round the Piano). Yam Hafkot, 1994, 55 minutes, color.

A young music teacher is visited by a group of engaging youngsters who become interested in a self-playing piano that strikes the responsive "chords" of their life experiences, including school orientation and family separation issues. The kids literally go inside the piano in playful song, dance and colorful costume and this program really moves.

Fun with the Alefbet! Geffen Productions, 1993, 40 minutes, color.

Learn the Hebrew alphabet with ventriloquist Jonathan Geffen and his whimsical puppet partners.

Ganenu: Alef & Bet, A Child's Garden of Judaism. Educational Video Systems, 1990,

20 minutes, color animation.

Entry level Judaic words and concepts related to the Hebrew letters, utilizing music, stories, puppets, and animation are the features of this video. Aleph explores concepts, people and places, including *emunah*, *echad*, *or ahavah*, Abraham and Ashkelon, a city in Israel. Bet uses other vocabulary. The video features a catchy alefbet song, segments filmed in Israel, and a cast of puppets.

Gymboree 2. Osem, n.d., color, 60 minutes.

Songs for young children, ages 2-5.

Ha ra'ashan. BJE.NY, 10 minutes, color animation.

The story of a young boy who finds a noisemaker that only sounds when the name of Haman is spoken. The secret of the *gragger* is revealed in a catchy melody that children can sing along.

Hasevivon: The Dreidel Seeks a Friend. BJE. NY, 10 minutes, color animation. Here is an animated film in Hebrew which can be used effectively to reinforce listening comprehension as it affirms the wonder of Hanukkah for children.

In the Footsteps of the Menorah. WZO, 28 minutes.

Dani, an Israeli youngster, is instructed to find the symbol of the menorah on a wide variety of items, such as a soccer team logo or a passport.

Keshet ve Anan - Cloud and Rainbow: New Years and Succot, Sisu, 47 minutes ea.

Tu B'shvat and Purim

Chanukah

It uses puppets and live characters to explain the holidays. The Hebrew is somewhat difficult and the film is best used in a day school setting.

Lehitim Metzuyarim Mishelanu. Klasikalett-Dudu Shliton & Haim Amit, 1993, 45 minutes, color.

Depicts three original Israeli stories in Hebrew and is useful for reinforcing vocabulary and syntax for children and adults. Pacing is slow enough to utilize with advance beginners or more appropriately, intermediate level groups. Includes Mitz Petel, D'ira L'Haskir, and Hakina Nechama.

Maaseh B'Hamisha Balonim. Clasicaletet, 1994, Color, 55 Minutes.

Combining animation and live characters this is a video translation of three of Miriam Ruth's famous children's stories. In addition to the story that titles the video, the program includes Habayit Shel Yael and Tiras Cham.

Now I Know My Aleph Bet: Vol 1 & 11. HaChai, color.

Through Torah tales, Hebrew songs, simple crafts and a wealth of exciting information young children are taken through a journey of the letters.

100 Shirei Mishak Rishanim, Helek Aleph: Sauta Bishla Daysa. Kelsikinneret, n.d. 50 minutes, color.

This features Hebrew songs that encourage playful movement activities.

Pinuki HaLech l'Gan: Spot Goes to Kindergarten. Salspot Ltd./Kol Ami, 1994, color. Spot the dog has fun in kindergarten. It is based on the popular picture books by Eric Hill.

Parpar Nechmad: Available for Chanukah, Passover or the Tishrei Months, Sisu, 30 minutes, color.

Songs, puppets, games and stories help explain the traditions of the holiday.

Shirim K'Tanim: At the Zoo Songs in Hebrew. Scopus Films, 1990, VHS, 40 minutes. The video features Hebrew songs geared towards young children. In many of the songs, the chorus is displayed in Hebrew or transliteration.

Sippurei HaTanach Vol.2: Creation, The Tree of Knowledge, Noah's Ark, Tower of Babel. Media connection, 1995, color animation, 35 minutes.

Original animation and creative dialogue enhance the retelling of four Bible stories. Each of the stories offers opportunities for discussion on several levels.

Yaron Baal HaHalomot. Office of Education and Culture. Pedagogic Center, 1993. Selected stories and poems by H.N. Bialik, Leah Naor and others are acted out and animated. It is based on the book *Chalonot*, *Part 11*, an anthology of selected children's literature.

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