

Israel & Judaic Studies DVDs Donated by UMBC Hillel & the Judaic Studies Program at UMBC – Spring 08

A Yiddish World Remembered – UMDVD 3977

In *A Yiddish World Remembered*, the story of Jewish life in Eastern Europe is brought to life again by some of the remaining eyewitnesses. Narrated by Academy Award nominated actor Elliott Gould and accompanied by never-before-seen archival films, vintage photographs, and, of course, traditional Klezmer and cantorial music, the documentary takes a realistic and enlightening look at this unique and all-but-vanished way of life. For those in rural communities, there was often no running water or electricity. For many, anti-Semitism was a part of daily life. But for everyone, crowded conditions and poverty seemed to prevail. Despite these trials, through the eyes of the individuals interviewed, we learn that Jewish communities were close-knit and often even joyous places to live. This television special explores everything from the fascinating language of Yiddish to the Rabbis and Rebbes that often ran the communities to the powerful Jewish movements of Khasidism, Bundism and Zionism.

Alila - UMDVD 4003

An apartment building in Tel Aviv is full of juicy gossip, including a blossoming friendship between residents Hezi (Amos Lavie) and Gabi (Yael Abecassis) that gets neighbors talking. Also creating a buzz is the illegal wing being added to the building; a man dealing with legal issues, a missing son and an unfaithful wife; and a Holocaust survivor (Yosef Carmon) and his Filipino maid (Lyn Shiao Zamir) escalating conflict between races.

Ani Yerushalmi - Coming soon

Although born in Jerusalem, legendary singer Yehoram Gaon was, like all Jews, forbidden from entering most of the city until the 1967 reunification. This fascinating documentary follows Gaon's exploration of his city, from his grandfather's simple home to the Western Wall and the Old City's open markets. Along the way, he performs eight of his most-loved songs that pay tribute to his birthplace.

Avanim - Coming soon

Michale is a thirty year old woman. She works with her father in a Tel Aviv accounting office providing services to important religious institutions. She divides her time between her child, her husband, her work and the man with whom she is having an affair. When Michale learns of the tragic death of her lover, her life is shattered

Bonjour Monsieur Shlomi - UMDVD 4001

16 years old Shlomi lives with his restless mother, his soldier brother and their ill grandfather. Although not doing well in school, Shlomi is a gifted cook and takes care of most household chores. One day, the school's principal finds out Shlomi is actually a genius and tries to get him into a more suitable curriculum. However, Shlomi is more interested in taking care of his family and his new love interest, the beautiful girl next door.

Close to Home - UMDVD 3967

Mirit (Neama Shendar) and Smadar (Smadar Sayar) are both serving their mandatory terms in the Israeli army, charged with the mundane task of checking the papers of Palestinian civilians. When a seemingly ordinary day is interrupted by a tragic event, the girls find their lives can never be the same. Directed by Vardit Bilu and Dalia Hager, this political drama examines the lives of those caught within the heart of the Middle East conflict.

Delta Jews - UMVID 5012

Documentary about Jews in the South.

Festival at the Poolroom - Coming soon

Considered by many to be the funniest Israeli movie ever made, The story is about twin brothers, Azriel and Gavriel (both played by Yehuda Barkan), who are not in contact with each other, since they live totally different lives. Azriel is a very religious, naive and good-hearted Jew who works in a fruit shop in Jaffa and leads a very religious life. Gavriel, on the other hand, is a hoodlum and a good-for-nothing hustler who together with his friend Hanuka (Ze'ev Revach) runs a Snooker Bar. Gavriel and Hanuka make easy money by swindling innocent people into gambling on Snooker games. One day Gavriel is forced to renew contact with his brother, because he is in trouble with the mafia, and the only way to pay them off is by selling the family estate which is co-owned by Gavriel and his brother Azriel. This movie is considered a cult movie in Israel, to the extent that, living in Israel, once in a while, you may bump into a person so deeply effected by this movie, that every other sentence that comes out of his mouth is a quote from Hagiga B'Snooker.

Frontline: The Longest Hatred - Coming soon

This documentary series tracks the roots of anti-Semitism all the way back to Roman times, when Jesus was persecuted and the idea that Jews were responsible for his death first took hold. Scholars discuss how this may have formed the seed for hatred that persevered for centuries and fueled the horrific events of the Holocaust. The filmmakers also examine the seemingly endless clash between the Arabic and Jewish people.

Hill Halfon Doesn't Answer - Coming soon

A comedic take on military mischief through the eyes of three Israeli Army reservists. The Sanai desert on the border of Israel and Egypt is where these patriotic yet trouble-prone soldiers get into everything that has nothing to do with upholding their military duties. Mayhem and mishaps follow as these three gentleman try their hardest to overcome their problems. Popular comedy trio Hagashash and Tuvi Tzafir head the all-star Israeli cast.

Israel Air Odyssey - The Holy Land from the Sky - UMDVD 3983

Join us on an Aerial Journey that brings the story of the Holy Land to life. In this breathtaking Odyssey from the Air, produced for National Geographic, get a new perspective on the its past, as well as on its future in the making. Stunning Aerial Photography uncovers the vast diversity to be found in Israel's landscapes, history and archaeology. Hear the stories of people, religions and cultures that passed through the land, fought over it, lived in it, and prayed for it. So come with us on a unique rendezvous with the people, colors and shapes that make up the diverse mosaic that is modern Israel. This one-of-a-kind video creation conveys the experience of soaring through Israel's Sky, giving you an exciting new view of this fascinating, old-new land.

Israel in Songs - UMDVD 4000

Forty-three singalong tracks of the best Israeli songs performed by Hagevatron, Esther Ofarim, Ilani, and more! This is undeniably the most unique and comprehensive DVD of Israeli songs ever to be released. * Contains background shots of Israel's beautiful scenery combined with shots of the performing groups and some of Israel's best dance troops. * Lyrics to all the songs sung in Hebrew appear on-screen in three languages: Hebrew, English (phonetic), and Spanish (phonetic). In addition, the booklet includes lyrics and biographies of all the performing artists.

Israel Philharmonic Orchestra: 70th Anniversary Concert - UMDVD 3980

Recorded live at Tel Aviv in 2006, this thrilling concert celebrates 70 years of the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra. Conductor Zubin Mehta leads the famed orchestra--and players Pinchas Zukerman (violin) and Daniel Barenboim (piano)--through performances of pieces by Bruch, Ravel, and Brahms.

Israel Today - UMDVD 3973

Israel Today! Filmed and produced by Fran & Brooke Reidelberger. Scripted and narrated by Fran Reidelberger. Some people say Israel is a land as venerable as the bible and as vibrant as today's newspaper headlines. Accorded formal nation status in 1948, Israel is certainly a part of the world that has known uncommon turmoil for over 2,000 years -- with alternate periods of calm and violence -- and appears headed for more of the same. Filmmakers Fran and Brooke Reidelberger traveled the country from top to bottom on two working trips in 2000 and 2001. Their "Israel Today!" is a timely, new look at this tiny but vitally important place. The film was produced and the show is presented with a hope for peace and prosperity, which the vast majority of people in the region desperately desire and richly deserve.

Israel: A Nation is Born - UMDVD 3989

Chronicling the founding of Israel, its diplomatic efforts and its struggle to survive through conflicts, this documentary is narrated by former Israeli Foreign Minister Abba Eban and features footage and interviews with Harry Truman, Winston Churchill, Anwar Sadat, David Ben-Gurion, Golda Meir, Yitzhak Rabin and more. With details of the Six Day War, the Yom Kippur War and the Egypt-Israel peace accord, figures and events come alive.

James' Journey to Jerusalem – Coming soon

In the imaginary village of Entshongweni, far from western civilization, young James is chosen to undertake a mission -- a pilgrimage to holy Jerusalem. But Israel is no longer the Holy Land that James and his people imagined. When he's suspected of trying to infiltrate the country to work illegally, James's journey takes him through the cruel heart of our economic system, as he learns the tricks of the game and plays it toward an inevitable end.

The Forgotten Refugees – Coming soon

The Forgotten Refugees: A documentary about the mass exodus of Jews from Arab countries and Iran in the 20th century. The Forgotten Refugees explores the history and destruction of Middle Eastern and North African Jewish communities, some of which had existed for over 2,500 years. Employing extensive testimony of survivors from Egypt, Yemen, Libya, Iraq and Iran, the film recounts the stories -- of joy and of suffering -- that nearly a million individuals have carried with them for so long. Segments on the contributions of Middle Eastern Jews to politics, business and music, testify to the enormously rich cultures which fleeing Jews left behind. The film weaves personal stories with dramatic archival footage of rescue missions, historic images of exodus and resettlement, and analysis by contemporary scholars, to tell the story of how and why the Arab world's Jewish population declined from one million in 1945 to several thousand today.

Newland - UMDVD 4002

The journey of two young siblings who, in the aftermath of WWII, venture from Europe to the refugee settlements of Israel in search of the family they lost to a concentration camp. Winner of four major European film festivals.

Nina's Tragedies - UMDVD 3984

Nadav, a sensitive teenager, is smitten with his beautiful Aunt Nina, and that sets the stage for this contemplative film about human fallibility as we scrutinize the panoply of adult emotion -- heartrending loss, great sex, bizarre coincidence, mortal illness and even birth. There's plenty to disappoint Nadav, but there's also reason for hope

No Longer 17 - UMDVD 3981

The sequel to the classic Israeli drama Noa at 17 finds Noa (Dailia Shimko) the idealistic teen now grown into a middle-aged woman. The kibbutz where Noa grew up is wracked with financial difficulties, so she returns home to help her mother, who's among those who could be

ousted from the settlement. But upon her arrival, Noa encounters a series of family reunions that retrigger old arguments and problems.

Noa at 17 - UMDVD 3970

Amid the political turmoil of 1950s Israel, a teenage girl named Noa (Dalia Shimko) is caught between her desire to go to college to express her individuality and her parents' wish to send her to a kibbutz -- a type of rural Jewish community based on the idea of communal property. Noa's middle-class upbringing and the options it affords her are catalysts for tension during a time of smoldering unrest.

Protocols of Zion - UMDVD 3987

Filmmaker Marc Levin sets out to understand and challenge those who believe the Jews were responsible for the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks that brought down the World Trade Center. This engrossing documentary explores the rapid growth of anti-Semitism since that tragic date and refutes the notion that a nefarious Jewish cabal orchestrated the attacks. Crisp, incisive and often humorous, this film delves into the dynamics of zealotry and hate.

Reggae in Holy Land - UMDVD 3976

The Holy Land--specifically, Ahziv, Israel--provides the setting for a day of reggae on the beach! Jamaica's best perform 12 different tracks, which were culled from 3 different live shows. The sacred beauty of the setting, the hopping reggae music, and the enthusiastic audience all combine to make this one unique concert. In addition to the live performance, some behind-the-scenes footage and interviews are also included.

Saint Clara - UMDVD 4004

Clara Chanov (Lucy Dubinchik), a pretty young Russian immigrant with the power to see into the future, turns the world of Golda Meir Junior High School upside down when she applies her gift for clairvoyance to everyday life. After all, when you're the "new kid," making friends is much easier if you can help your classmates get perfect scores on their upcoming math tests ... and then there's always the lottery.

Sallah - Coming soon

Israeli stage and film favorite Topol tops the cast of Sallah. Topol plays a Jewish refugee who moves his family to Israel shortly after the official establishment of that "promised land." Unlike his hard-working new neighbors, Topol is shiftless and lazy, forever finding the easiest, most painless means to support his family. Amazingly, Topol becomes a hero when, while wheeling and dealing, he uncovers misappropriations and corner-cutting in Israel's housing industry.

Summer of Aviya - Coming soon

Based on the best selling memoir by Gila Almagor, *Aviya's Summer* (A.K.A., *The Summer of Aviya*) tells the story of a poignant period in the life of Aviya (Kaipo Cohen), in the early years of the State of Israel. The Holocaust left Aviya fatherless and left her mother, Henia (Gila Almagor), mentally ill. With no one to care for her, she lives in an orphanage. This summer Aviya is home with her mother, trying to get her life back. All she wants is to be like the other kids - but she can't. Ashamed of her mother's illness, with no one to turn to, Aviya finds refuge in her vivid imagination. *Aviya's Summer* is a unique dramatic tale with extraordinary performances that will move and touch the viewer.

Sunshine - UMDVD 3975

A single actor (Ralph Fiennes) portrays father, son and grandson in this epic history of a Jewish family as they struggle to survive anti-Semitism, war and corruption in Hungary. Each man deals with the prevailing regime in his own way: Ignatz's business thrives despite a corrupt regime; Adam's assimilation means nothing to the Nazis; and third-generation Ivan's friend Knorr (William Hurt) is branded an agitator for promoting pure communism.

Talmud (full) - UMDVD 3999

Director Pierre-Henry Salfati's incisive documentary explores the origins and history of the Talmud, the fundamental text of rabbinic principals and wisdom, regarded as the most influential text on the everyday conduct of Jewish life. Through expert analysis and in-depth interviews, Salfati goes to great lengths to demystify this vast collection of philosophical commentary and debate, which has been called "the hidden face of the Torah."

The Barbeque People - UMDVD 3982

This Israeli drama follows the story of a family coming together in 1988 for a barbecue to celebrate the country's 40th anniversary of independence. Haim (Victor Ida), the family patriarch and an Arab Israeli, relives his years as a weapons smuggler, while his wife begins affair and his daughter Tikva (Dana Ivgy) struggles with the news that she got pregnant during her service in the military. The film was nominated for 11 Israeli Academy Awards.

Big Dig - UMDVD 4005

Unable to distinguish madness from bureaucracy, Tel Aviv politicians follow the lead of an escaped lunatic who steals a pneumatic drill and begins tunneling into the street in the middle of a busy plaza. Convinced it is part of a legitimate public works project, countless officials angle for their "proper" share of the dig. Wild satire from Israel.

The Bubble - UMDVD 4053

Three young Israelis, two guys and a girl, share an apartment in Tel Aviv's hippest neighborhood: headstrong Lulu, who works in a bath products boutique; flamboyant Yali, who manages a trendy café; and brooding music store clerk Noam, who spends his weekends serving at checkpoints in the National Guard. When Noam meets and falls in love with a Palestinian man named Ashraf, he and his friends conspire to help Ashraf stay on in Tel Aviv illegally. They participate in a beach rally, celebrating a peaceful coexistence, and calling for an end to the occupation of Palestinian territories. But ultimately, their carefully constructed utopia is shattered by the political and social realities of the Middle East, and the constant outbursts of violence.

The Chosen - UMDVD 3968

Chaim Potok's acclaimed novel is translated to the screen in this lyrical adaptation. It's World War II, and as battles rage in Europe and Asia, two young men -- one a member of the Hasidim, the other the son of a reformed Jew -- become friends in spite of their differences. Stars Maximilian Schell, Rod Steiger and Robby Benson.

The Holy Land - Coming soon

Menachem Weinbaum (Oren Rehani) is a rabbinical student who, on the imprudent advice of his teacher, goes to a Tel Aviv brothel to sow some oats before getting serious with his studies. While there, he meets a Russian prostitute named Sasha, with whom he's smitten. He also winds up at Mike's Place, a meeting point for Arabs, Christians and Jews all seeking change in Jerusalem. But what kind of change, and at what price?

The Jewish Americans - UMDVD 3969

This six-hour documentary follows 350 years of Jewish-American history, from the first settlement in the 17th century to the present, and explores the experience of immigration and assimilation. Liev Schreiber narrates.

The Last Jews of Libya - UMDVD 3972

In this thought-provoking documentary narrated by actress Isabella Rossellini, filmmaker Vivienne Roumani-Denn explores the disappearance of Jews in Libya over the course of the nation's history by tracing her own family's comings and goings. In the third century B.C., a

thriving community of Jewish people made their homes and built their lives in Libya. But by the dawn of the 21st century, not a single Jew remained.

The Silent Exodus - Coming soon

They were more than a million Jews. Between 1946 and 1974, this million is the number of forgotten fugitives, expelled from the Arab world, and whom history would like to forget, while the victims themselves have hidden their fate under a veil of modesty. The Jews have been living in Arabic lands for thousands of years and seemed to accept their fate forever, some even considering their survival as a miracle. But 1948, the beginning of their exodus, was also the birth of the State of Israel. And, while the Arab armies were preparing to invade the young refugee-country, while the survivors of the Shoah were piling up in dangerous boats to fulfill at last the return to the land of their dreams and their prayers, a few hundred thousand Arabs from Palestine were getting ready to flee their home, convinced that they would return as winners and conquerors. They were soon going to fill up the refugee camps built on their brothers land, and because of their refusal to integrate pass on their refugee status to the next generations. The Jews did not get any special status. They had just returned to the Land of their fathers And if they came from Aden, Yemen, Egypt, Iraq, Syria, Morocco, Tunisia or Libya, if they had lost everything and sometimes even relatives, memories and cemeteries, it is in Israel and the west that they were ready to rebuild their lives. Without ever asking for any compensation, any right to return, or even wishing that their story be told.

Turn Left at the End of the World - Coming soon

It's the late 1960s, and two immigrant families -- one from Morocco and the other from India -- living in an isolated Israeli village must learn to coexist as neighbors. They have little in common except for their teenage daughters and hope for a better life. Amid the culture clash, Moroccan Nicole (Neta Garty) and Indian Sara (Liraz Charchi) forge a friendship despite their parents' resentments and prejudices in this coming-of-age drama.

Under the Domim Tree - Coming soon

The trials and tribulations of four teenagers--some of whom were orphaned by the Holocaust--living on an Israeli kibbutz in 1953 provide the basis of this Israeli episodic drama. Each one deals with very different problems. Aviya attempts to find information about her deceased father; Yurek tries to prevent authorities from sending his best friend to a boarding school while Yola copes with the news that her father has just died in Poland. Finally, Mira must fight the two people who claim to be her estranged parents and who have taken her to court to win custody. Mira knows in her heart that these two are no relation.

Wisdom of the Pretzel (Hochmat HaBeygale) - UMDVD 4054

The main character, Golan, is a 30 year old student nearing the end of his college studies, and is having a hard time deciding about his future. At 30, he sees no point in getting a job, finding a wife or stopping the endless round of parties. Golan had always considered life to be about marrying well and attaining money, but after a blind date with his best friend's quirky sister, he begins to question such beliefs. Golan then begins a personal journey that has him challenge everything he has ever believed, about himself, about love and about the nature of life in contemporary Israel.

Yana's Friends - UMDVD 3974

The Gulf War serves as the backdrop for this drama set in 1991 Israel. Yana (Evelyn Kaplun), a pregnant Russian woman, is abandoned by her husband and left to share an apartment with their roommate, Eli (Nir Levy), a voyeuristic wedding photographer. Attracted to the tumult of Yana's life, Eli trains his lenses on her and finds himself falling in love with his subject.