



"Teen Screen was the best educational experience my students have had this year."

Deidre Manack, South Allegheny High School, March 2009

JFILM: The Pittsburgh Jewish Film Forum (formerly the *Pittsburgh Jewish Israeli Film Festival*) is offering "**Teen Screen**" - **free film screenings for school groups** during the 2010-2011 school year. Teacher guides are provided for each film and a talkback session follows each screening. JFilm educators are available for a one-time preparatory session in your classroom prior to your school's screening date.

We have reserved the following dates for film screenings.

Thursday, January 20 th	Wednesday, March 16 th
Tuesday, January 25 th	Thursday, March 17 th
Wednesday, February 23 rd	Tuesday, May 10 th
Thursday, February 24 th	Wednesday, May 11 th
*Tuesday, March 8 th	Thursday, May 19 th
*Wednesday, March 9 th	

Please note that we can accommodate groups of 100 or more on other dates of your choice, with advance planning. If you have a smaller group and would like a different date, please contact us well in advance so that we can find other interested groups to join yours.

Screenings begin at 10 or at 10:30 a.m. and the program ends no later than 12:30 p.m., depending on the length of the film you select. *All screenings take place at SouthSide Works Cinema except for March 8 and 9 when screenings of pre-selected films will be held at the University of Pittsburgh in conjunction with the Holocaust Center's Arts and Writing Seminar. For all other dates, choose the film you would like to see, and call 412-992-5213, or email: info@JFilmPgh.org to register. Reservations must be made in advance. Seating is limited.

As you can see from the descriptions below, the films are appropriate for a wide range of grade levels and provide many opportunities for cross-curriculum learning. Please help us reach more students by forwarding this information to all teachers who might be interested in our program.

Film Descriptions as of January 6, 2011:

A Film Unfinished (for grades 11-12 only) *New Offering!*

Documentary, 89 minutes, German, Hebrew, Yiddish, Polish and English, with subtitles
"A Film Unfinished" explores the Nazis' use of "actors" to create a fictitious display of life in the Warsaw Ghetto. Recently found footage shot by the Nazi propaganda machine is included in this award-winning, eye-opening documentary. Rated "R" for disturbing images and Holocaust atrocities including nudity. **Themes: filmmaking, illusion, bearing witness, survival, victims/oppressors**

As Seen Through These Eyes (recommended for grades 11-12, especially art students)

Documentary, 70 minutes, English

Maya Angelou narrates this absorbing Holocaust documentary about the experiences of artists in the concentration camps. In addition to interviews with survivors, the film displays images the artists created during a time of unbelievable horror. A moving testimonial to the resiliency of the human spirit.

Themes: artists, Maya Angelou, poetry, persistence, survival, tolerance

Blessed is the Match: The Life and Death of Hannah Senesh (recommended for grades 7-12)

Documentary, 45 minutes, English

“Blessed Is the Match” chronicles the life and death of Hannah Senesh, the World War II-era poet and diarist who became a paratrooper, resistance fighter and modern-day Joan of Arc. Narrated by three-time Academy Award nominee Joan Allen. **Themes: determination, poetry, mother-daughter relationships, women as heroes**

shown with:

Toyland (winner of the 2009 Academy Award for Best Short Film)

Fiction, 14 minutes, German with subtitles

During WWII, a mother, not wanting to tell her young son the truth, tells him that his best friend's Jewish family is going away to “Toyland.” Little does she realize the power of their bond. **Themes: bullying, friendship, trust**

Herskovits at the Heart of Blackness (recommended for grades 10-12)

Documentary, 60 minutes, English

A fascinating, visually innovative film that reveals the pioneering work and controversial legacy of American Jewish anthropologist Melville J. Herskovits, a towering scholar often credited with inventing the field of African studies in the 1920s through the '50s. Herskovits's groundbreaking field research, conducted in an era when Jews and blacks were unwelcome either as academics or as subjects of dignified study, dared to find that African American cultures are distinct and African-based—a tidal shift in the image of blacks in America. **Themes: African American and African history, human rights, social justice**

Inside Hana's Suitcase (recommended for grades 6–8)

Documentary, 60 minutes, Czech, English and Japanese with subtitles

The delivery of a battered suitcase to the director of the Holocaust Museum in Tokyo begins the true-life mystery that became the subject of the best-selling book *Hana's Suitcase*. The suitcase came from the Auschwitz Museum and had Hana Brady's name painted on it. The film follows the director and her students search to discover the details of Hana's life, which leads to the discovery of her brother George in Toronto. As small children they had been sent to Theresienstadt for being Jewish after the Nazis invaded Czechoslovakia in 1939. Children from Japan, Canada, and the Czech Republic describe Hana's story creating a film of astonishing power and hope. **Themes: bullying, children & children's rights, Japanese culture, persistence, teamwork, tolerance**

shown with:

Jai (Life) *New Offering!*

Fiction, 10 minutes, Spanish with subtitles

A young girl asks her elderly grandmother about the number tattooed on her arm. The Holocaust survivor's answer is unique and surprising, as is the insight of the young girl. **Themes: survival, optimism, compassion**

Paper Clips (recommended for grades 6-8)

Documentary, 87 minutes, English

Students at Whitwell Middle School in rural Tennessee were determined to collect six million paper clips to better conceptualize the reality of six million Jewish victims of the Holocaust. Their project captured the attention of the nation, and brought them in contact with survivors from around the world. **Themes: diversity, teamwork, tolerance**

Saviors in the Night (recommended for students grades 9 -12)

Narrative, 97 minutes, German with subtitles

Based on the memoir of Marga Spiegel published in 1965, this powerful World War II drama portrays how courageous German farmers in Westphalia risked their lives to hide a Jewish family. Because of their fair coloring, Marga and her young daughter are able to pass as Aryan, but her husband, sheltered by another farmer, runs the daily risk of discovery. The farmers' names are immortalized in Yad Vashem, the Holocaust Museum in Israel. **Themes: heroism, loss, perseverance, tolerance**

JFilm: The Pittsburgh Jewish Film Forum is a program of the Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh.

Voices Unbound: The Story of the Freedom Writers *New Offering!*

(recommended for grades 9-12, especially English composition students)

Documentary, 90 minutes, English

Voices Unbound recounts the journey of a group of 150 at-risk youths from Long Beach California, who, in the mid-1990's, inspired by the *Diary of Anne Frank*, learned to rise above their circumstances by writing their own stories. Told entirely through the voices of the students themselves, the documentary goes far beyond the feature film "Freedom Writers" (Paramount, 2007) and explores the lives of the students beyond the classroom, and the ramifications and impact of telling one's story.

Themes: diversity, tolerance, determination, teamwork