

Attn: Arts, entertainment, events, calendar editors

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JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL AT FLINT INSTITUTE OF ARTS MAY 12 AND 15-19

Flint's annual showcase of Jewish-oriented cinema marks its seventh year with six nights of films at the Flint Institute of Arts.

Sponsored by the FIA, the Flint Jewish Federation and Jewish Community Services, the 2011 Karen Schneider Jewish Film Festival of Flint will offer five feature films and a program of short subjects, all focusing on Jewish life and cultural issues, May 12 and 15-19.

The festival will open Thursday, May 12 at 7:30 p.m. with a special preview of sorts: a night of short films with free admission to the public. The nine shorts on the one-hour, 15-minute program deal with such varied topics as young people's coming of age, the plight of the disappearing seltzer salesman, and the differences between Orthodox and Reform Judaism as expressed by the bicoastal Reuben sandwich.

The event resumes Sunday, May 15 with a special patron reception at 6 p.m., followed by a 7:30 p.m. screening of the 2009 Mexican comedy "**Nora's Will**," about a man who attempts to bury his just-deceased ex-wife on the eve of Passover festivities.

The film schedule resumes at 7:30 each evening over the next four days with these attractions:

- Monday, May 16 – "**Saviors in the Night**" (Germany-France, 2009), a fact-based drama about a Jewish family forced to hide in the home of a Gentile farmer in 1940s Germany.
- Tuesday, May 17 – "**The Matchmaker**" (Israel, 2010), about a 1960s teenage boy who goes to work for a matchmaker who has survived the Holocaust.
- Wednesday, May 18 – "**The Yankles**" (U.S., 2009), a comedy about a washed-up former major-league baseball player who gets a second chance at life by managing an Orthodox Yeshiva team.
- Thursday, May 19 – "**Anita**" (Argentina, 2009), an unusual film that follows the odyssey of a young Jewish woman with Down Syndrome who is stranded on the streets of Buenos Aires.

Tickets for each film are \$6 at the door. Special packages are available in advance through the Flint Jewish Federation, (810) 767-5922.

The Flint festival is named in memory of Karen Schneider, the event's first chairperson, who died in 2009. It is affiliated with the Lenore Marwil Jewish Film Festival, which presents Jewish-oriented movies in multiple southeastern Michigan locales each spring.

The Flint Institute of Arts is located two blocks off I-475 in the Cultural Center area between the University of Michigan-Flint and Mott Community College.