

## WEDNESDAY EVENING FILMS



**REGAL**  
ENTERTAINMENT  
GROUP®

**Westpark 8 Cinemas** 3735 Alton Parkway, Irvine  
Introduction by screenwriter and psychologist Dr. Michael Berlin  
at **7:00 p.m.**, film to follow immediately.

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### **The Exception** (2016) – **Wednesday, September 6, 2017**

Based on *The Kaiser's Last Kiss*, a 2003 fictionalized historical novel about Kaiser Wilhelm II's waning days in exile, and starring Christopher Plummer as the bellicose and complex Kaiser Wilhelm II, "The Exception" opens in 1940 as Hitler is busily invading Europe. This elegant, art-house-style period romance and war drama centers on a young German soldier who must square duty – protector of the at-risk ruler, holed up in Holland – and a romantic entanglement with a crafty Jewish spy hired as a housekeeper. With a keen eye and a sense of humor, British stage director David Leveaux pokes fun at the Fuhrer while presenting the German protagonists as charming pacifists who would rather sit on the sidelines of war and world domination.



### **Let Yourself Go** (2017) – **Wednesday, September 13, 2017**

In this Italian take on Jewish comedy, actor Tony Servillo plays a psychoanalyst who lives and works in the rarely-seen Roman ghetto, a beautiful neighborhood in the historic city center. Separated from his wife Giovanna by a very thin wall, the bearded and bespectacled doctor lives a methodical and rather self-centered existence that is livened up only by the weirdness of some of his clients. A diagnosis of high blood sugar levels and orders to diet and shape up coincide with the bounding arrival in his office of Claudia, a zesty Spanish personal trainer who drags him into a swirling vortex of mishaps that breathe life back into this man's suffocated life. Shades of Woody Allen and the Marx and Coen brothers bring smiles and giggles to this amusing tale. In Italian with subtitles.



### **Fanny's Journey** (2016) – **Wednesday, October 25, 2017**

Fanny's Journey is the true story of a 13-year-old girl who is separated from her parents in Nazi-occupied France. After the arrest of Fanny's father, her mother sends Fanny and her sisters to a boarding school in France's neutral zone. But the school isn't a haven for long. The Jewish students must be smuggled to another institution in France, occupied by the Italians, just before a German raid. As political circumstances change, the girls and the other children are forced to cross into Switzerland. On the way, Fanny is forced to take charge of the younger children and keep straight the stories they have concocted to get past the German soldiers. With a focus on the resilience of these young heroes and working with the real Fanny Ben-Ami, Lola Doillon beautifully directs this wonderful cast in a story that is quite relevant in the present moment. *Excerpted from J.T. Greenstein* In French with subtitles.



## **Groundhog Day** (1993) – Wednesday, November 8, 2017

### **Special Presentation with Guest Appearance by Screenwriter Danny Rubin**

There are a few films, and this is one of them, that burrow into our memories and become reference points. When you find yourself needing the phrase This is like “Groundhog Day” to explain how you feel, a movie has accomplished something.

The movie, as everyone knows, is about a man who finds himself living the same day over and over and over again. He is the only person in his world who knows this is happening, and after going through periods of dismay and bitterness, revolt and despair, suicidal self-destruction and cynical recklessness, he begins to do something that is alien to his nature. He begins to learn.

“Groundhog Day” is a film that finds its note and purpose so precisely that its genius may not be immediately noticeable. - *Excerpted from Roger Ebert, 2005*



## **A Quiet Heart** (2016) – Wednesday, January 10, 2018

This tense, slow-burning thriller focuses on a young woman who sits on the fault line between secular and religious life in Israel while confronting her own future as a promising pianist. Naomi Sirad (Ania Bukstein, *Game of Thrones*) leaves her home in Tel Aviv for a new life and a new job in a Haredi enclave of Jerusalem. Naomi is looking to escape her parents and her past, but the neighborhood is increasingly hostile to Naomi for being secular, and things only get stranger when she develops a close friendship with a Catholic monk. Bukstein’s performance is subtle and powerful as she navigates the frightening territory of religious extremism. *Excerpted from Tamar Fox* In Hebrew and English with subtitles.



## **Fire Birds** (2015) – Wednesday, March 7, 2018

A down-on-his-luck Israeli detective must unlock the secrets of a circle of spry Holocaust survivors to solve a vexing murder mystery that enticingly entwines past and present. When the body of 80-year-old Amikom is found in the river with stab wounds and a number tattooed on his arm, the case is assigned to gruff but likable Amnon, who has returned to duty after a lengthy suspension. The investigation leads him to a tattoo parlor and a club of Holocaust survivors who seek solace in romantic recollections of their pre-war world. As the plot rewinds through the victim’s final months, a story of deadly dalliances, desire, loneliness and rejection emerges, connecting characters of different generations, both with Holocaust ties and both spurned by society.

In his *début* feature, writer-director Amir Wolf keeps audiences guessing with a smart mix of humor, charm and melancholy. Nominated for 10 Israeli Academy Awards, with a Best Supporting Actress win for Dvora Kedar. In Hebrew with subtitles.



## **The Invisibles** (2017) – Wednesday, April 11, 2018

In 1943, when the Nazis declared Berlin “free of Jews,” some 7,000 Jewish men, women and children were still living there in hiding. Weaving dramatic re-enactments, archival material and interviews with four survivors who were teenagers and young adults at the time, this fictionalized documentary feature sheds light on Jewish Berliners at the end of the war. “The courage and resourcefulness of the young protagonists is inspiring,” said Director Claus Raefle. “Although the circumstances were threatening and deeply tragic, there are elements which still can be uplifting and encouraging today.” In German with subtitles.



## **The Testament** (2017) – Wednesday, April 25, 2018

Yoel, a senior Holocaust researcher, is in the midst of a widely covered legal battle with powerful forces in Austria who deny that a brutal massacre of Jews took place in an Austrian village toward the end of WWII. While investigating the incident, the meticulous historian examines classified testimonies of Holocaust survivors. To his utter amazement, he discovers a testimony given by his mother in which she confesses to carrying a false identity. Yoel finds himself trapped between walls of silence: denial of the Holocaust on the part of the villagers, and his mother's regarding her past. With his unshakeable commitment to the truth, he chooses to continue his investigations at the risk of ruining everything he holds dear. In Hebrew with subtitles.

## **SUNDAY MORNING FILMS**



**REGAL**  
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**Westpark 8 Cinemas** 3735 Alton Parkway, Irvine  
**Bagel Breakfast at 9:00 a.m.** Introduction by screenwriter and psychologist Dr. Michael Berlin at **10:00 a.m.**, film to follow immediately.



## **Stefan Zweig: Farewell to Europe** (2016) – Sunday, October 8, 2017

The years of exile in the life of Austrian Stefan Zweig, one of the most popular German-language writers of the 1920s and 1930s, took him to Buenos Aires, New York and Brazil. As a Jewish intellectual, Zweig struggled with a deepening sense of despair and self-pity as he searched his soul for the right stance towards the events in Nazi Germany, and the new world for a home. Beautifully acted by Austrian Josef Hader and, as his ex-wife and conscience, Barbara Sukowa. In German, Portuguese and English with subtitles.



## **1945** (2017) – Sunday, November 5, 2017

August, 1945. As a remote Hungarian town prepares for the wedding of the village magistrate's son, two Orthodox Jews arrive by train station with two coffin-shaped wooden crates, supposedly filled with soaps and perfumes. Rumors swirl. Are these men going to set up shop? Is this a harbinger of the return of more Jews? Led by the boorish village magistrate, the townspeople fear that these strangers may be heirs of their Jewish neighbors come to claim their stolen property. Paranoia runs rampant, leading to tragic events and a potent, unexpected ending. Director Ferenc Török captures the oft-overlooked moment when a town's actions become a metaphor for the moral decay of the whole country. *Excerpted from Jay Rosenblatt.* In Hungarian and Russian with subtitles.



## **Across the Waters** (2016) – Sunday, January 21, 2018

The long arm of Nazism reaches the shores of Scandinavia in this gripping tale of survival and rescue. Enjoying the nightlife of 1943 Copenhagen, jazz guitarist Arne Itkin feels immune to the hardships of war as the Danish government opts for a compliant relationship with Nazi Germany. He is initially skeptical of rumors of a round-up and deportation of Danish Jews. An overnight raid however, forces the couple to flee their home with five-year-old son Jakob. Aided by a pastor and underground resistance, they journey to the fishing village of Gilleleje, where refugees await passage to Sweden by boat. Amidst lurking danger, the family puts its fate in the hands of strangers whose allegiance and motives are not always clear. Based on true events, the well-paced film is directed and co-written by Nicolò Donato, whose grandfather was among the courageous Danish fisherman who ferried war refugees to safety. In Danish and German with subtitles.



## **Mr. Predictable** (2016) – Sunday, February 11, 2018

This endearing Israeli romantic comedy opens with the five-year-old hero, Adi Levi, igniting a rocket in his backyard—and promptly setting everything on fire. His father comes to the rescue with a garden hose and both house and boy survive without injury. When his father dies in combat in Lebanon, leaving Adi alone with his mother, he bottles up his feelings and channels his creative energies towards taking care of others. By the time he reaches adulthood, Adi is seen as a pushover so taken for granted that his own doctor confuses him for someone else and tells him he may have just weeks to live. This shock provokes his first reckless act since age five. Chaos and providence quickly ensue, forcing Avi to decide whether he's ready to grow up. *Excerpted from Emily Kaiser Thelin.* In Hebrew with subtitles.

# DOCUMENTARIES AND SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS



**University Synagogue** 3400 Michelson Dr., Irvine

Introduction at 7:00p.m., film to follow immediately. Tickets for all of these films will be sold at the door. Tickets are \$10 per person.

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## **Body and Soul: An American Bridge** (2016)

– **Wednesday, November 15, 2017**

“Body and Soul” is the most recorded soulful jazz tune ever. It became one of Billie Holiday’s signatures, a torch song that encapsulated the suffering of a Black woman who had been wronged in life and love in numberless ways. “Body and Soul” was composed by Johnny Green, a Jew who was neither from an immigrant family nor poor. But he was in tune with the feelings of the downtrodden. Filmmaker Robert Philipson uses the example of Green’s “Body and Soul” to make a larger case: Jews and Blacks found a “bridge” between their cultures through song. *Excerpted from Miguel Pendás.*



## **A Wing and a Prayer** (2015) – **Wednesday, January 31, 2018**

This little-known story of a secret and illegal post-World War II operation is pieced together using firsthand accounts of daring escapes and heart-pounding action by a team of Americans who put their lives and U.S. citizenship on the line to give the Jewish state a fighting chance in the 1948 Arab-Israel War. When the Arab League vowed to “push the Jews into the sea,” anticipating weak opposition since Israel had a sparsely armed military, a wingless air force and no allies, even the United States joined the worldwide embargo that threatened to strangle Israel as soon as it took its first breath. The film includes an exclusive interview with the late Al Schwimmer who, after leading the operation, launched and ran global aviation innovator Israel Aerospace Industries. Schwimmer and his men helped reshape history, but the history books have ignored them. A Wing and a Prayer has written that missing chapter.



## **There are Jews Here** (2016) – **Wednesday, February 21, 2018**

Most American Jews feel comfortable defining themselves in any way they choose. Almost invisible are the roughly one million Jews in far-flung towns for whom Jewish identity is a daily challenge. For them, they live with the fear that their legacy could fade away at any time.

“There are Jews Here” follows four communities that can now barely hold a prayer service. In Latrobe, PA the closing of a shul is experienced through the intimate story of Mickey Radner, who helped keep the synagogue open long enough for one last Bat Mitzvah. In Butte, Montana, we meet the indefatigable Nancy Oyer, who tries to save the community while struggling with her personal health. In Laredo, a young interfaith couple is torn between reviving their community and moving to a thriving one in San Antonio. In a final twist, we meet a Los Angeles family that takes up Dothan, Alabama’s offer of up to \$50,000 to Jews who relocate to their town.



## **On the Map** (2016) – **Wednesday, March 21, 2018**

The against-all-odds story of Maccabi Tel Aviv's 1977 European Championship took place when the Middle East was still reeling from the 1973 Yom Kippur War, the 1972 Olympic massacre at Munich and the 1976 hijacking of an Air France flight from Tel Aviv. Through the lens of sports, *On the Map* presents the story of how one team captured the heart of a nation amid domestic turmoil and the global machinations of the Cold War. - *Excerpted from Dani Menkin/Jon Weinbach*

***Shown in partnership with ON THE MAP FOUNDATION (OTMF), established to help bring positive and inspiring stories from Israel to the big screen.***