

VIDEO SCREENINGS AT AJL CONVENTION 2001

Nomi Levy

Description: It's always a good thing to review an item before adding it to your collection - especially a video that you may not be able to return once it is viewed. During these 2 1/2 hours of video screenings, you can preview videos that you may want to consider adding to your collection. In order that as many videos as possible can be viewed in this brief period, this list includes only films under 30 minutes in length. We have tried to include a wide variety of topics and styles as a sampling of what is available. A short discussion will follow each presentation. Kick off your shoes, put up your feet, nosh on some popcorn, and relax awhile.

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The following is a selected list of short videos appropriate for a Judaic setting. These videos were made available for previewing at the AJL Convention through the courtesy of Ergo Media Inc. For more information, see: *The Jewish Video Catalog* - Ergo Media Inc., June 2001 - <http://www.jewishvideo.com>

ANNOTATED VIDEOGRAPHY

Alle Brider: Flying Bulger Klezmer

ISBN 1-56082-146-9

5 min., Color, \$9.95

An entertaining five minutes of Klezmer music. Find yourself dancing and singing along with this wonderful music video. Experience a Yiddish folk tune with a hidden merengue beat, performed by the Flying Bulgar Klezmer Band.

Ayer: Our Spanish Heritage

Ages 8-Adult

ISBN 1-56082-261-9

12 min., Color, \$19.95

This lively educational video explores the history of the Jews of Spain from Biblical times through their expulsion in 1492. We are introduced to the religious, economic, political and cultural lives of the original Sephardim, whose unique language, Ladino- a blend of Hebrew and Spanish- is spoken and sung to this very day. A wonderful journey through a remarkable but little-known saga of Jewish history. Narrated by Theodore Bikel.

Cockfight

ISBN 1-56082-272-4

13 min., Color, Hebrew w/English subtitles, \$34.95

While transporting a truckload of chickens, Marciano and his Romanian worker are stopped at a Palestinian checkpoint. Nabil, the officer in charge of the checkpoint, is Marciano's former employee, one who used to work in his chicken coop. It is a very hot summer day and Marciano is in a hurry to get to his destination. Tempers flare and the situation becomes explosive. As Marciano quickly learns, the price of peace is sometimes expensive.

The Cohen's Wife

ISBN 1-56082-264-3

24 min., Color, Yiddish w/English subtitles, \$39.95

Rivki Cohen, a young Ultra-Orthodox woman, opens her door to give charity to a beggar and is subsequently raped by him. According to Jewish law, a Cohen's wife who is raped is forbidden to her husband. Must Motl, her beloved husband, now divorce her? Motl takes the case to the Rabbinical court and awaits their decision in this heart-wrenching new work by Nava (Nussan) Heifetz of the Ma'ale Film School in Jerusalem. A powerful trigger for discussion.

God@Heaven

ISBN 1-56082-254-6

20 min., Color, \$39.95

One day, seven year old Adam is given a leaflet advertising "e-mail direct to God, only \$10!" Thrilled at the prospect of acquiring this direct line of communication, Adam rushes home to try it out. As we follow the odyssey of Adam's e-mail all the way to Jerusalem's Western Wall, we cannot help but feel Adam's frustration as the days pass without a reply. Then suddenlyY. This contemporary video's mix of theology and technology addresses an age old question in a new and most innovative way.

Hot Bagels: The Hole Story

ISBN 1-56082-041-1

12 min., Color, \$25.95

A personable young bagel baker takes us on a guided tour through the bagel-making process, from its origins to contemporary methods. Lively, informative and tantalizing.

Let Memory Speak

ISBN 1-56082-267-8

27 min., Color, \$39.95

One and a half million children! The number staggers the imagination. Batia Bettman, a child survivor and an educator, presents a sensitive documentary focusing on the most tragic victims of the Holocaust, the children, whose only crime was to have been born Jewish. Through the use of photographs, diaries, poems, memoirs and testimonies, the filmmaker personalizes the lives of the children before World War II, during the Holocaust, at Liberation and today, in a way that enables us to begin to comprehend their lives. The film explores the concept of how memory and legacy are transmitted from generation to generation, as evidenced in the very moving final segment filmed

recently during the March of the Living. The young generation has now returned to walk in the footsteps of those who perished. With music written, arranged and performed by Zalmen Mlotek.

Sepharad: Music of Sephardic Jews

ISBN 1-56082-122-1

27 min., Color, \$39.95

This unusual video enables the viewer to hear and learn about the beautiful Ladino tunes of the Middle Ages, lullabies, wedding tunes, as well as music of the synagogue and songs of mourning. Eva Pitlick's Vocal Ensemble and well-known singer Mira Zakai are featured.

Wrapped: The How and Why of Tallit and Tefillin

ISBN 1-56082-265-1

31 min., Color, \$29.95

For the first time ever, Ashkenazi and Sephardi methods of putting on tallit and tefillin are presented on one video. Rabbis Yosef Benarroch and Charles Feinberg demonstrate the two traditions in the first part of the video. In part two, "Reflections," they explain the importance of tallit and tefillin in their own lives and in the larger text of Jewish belief.