



NEW VIDEOS & DVD'S 2004 - 2005

VIDEOS

Ancient Refugee in the Holy Land: Unearthing a Rebel Hideout. Nova, 2004, 60 minutes, color.

A documentary on the exploration of a cave near the Dead Sea in which letters by Bar Kochba were found. Artifacts and relics were discovered that provided clues to turbulent times of messianic fervor, oppression, and revolt.

The Bicycle. Israel, n.d., Hebrew with English subtitles.

The story of a father's dilemma to win the respect and affection of his son by providing him with a bicycle he cannot afford. Excellent trigger film on ethics & values.

The Boys of Buchenwald: From Darkness into Light. Paperny Films, 2002, 47 minutes.

Using archival footage, stills, and interviews, this is the story of the boys who survived the Buchenwald concentration camp and banded together on the trains out of Germany. It traces their emotional journey from Buchenwald to France and on to the various places they settled.

Emperors and Rebels: The Story Of Hanukkah, Part 1: Antiochus Epiphanes, Ergo, 2003, 47 minutes, color.

Chronicles the life and times of Antiochus and Judah Maccabee during the Hasmonean Revolt. Uses digitally recreated combat scenes and famous paintings to provide background to the struggle. Rather dry but informative.

Falasha: Exile of the Black Jews. Wellspring, 2004, color, 80 minutes.

Reveals the plight of Ethiopia's Jewish community and explores the politics that led to their amazing modern day exodus.

Giving Voice: Today's Kids Get Real about Bias: Survivor and Witness First-Person Testimonies. Films for the Arts and Humanities, 2004, 30 minutes.

Seven young people with cameras document their surroundings at home and schools and share their emotional responses to viewing survivor testimony. They make candid and poignant observations about the examples of intolerance and bigotry they encounter daily and speak about their personal responsibility for building a more tolerant world. The video weaves student video diaries with first person, primary source interviews with Holocaust survivors and witnesses. Teaching guide available.

Israel and Palestine: A Divided Land. Knowledge Unlimited, 2004, 41 minutes, color.

Using archival footage and interviews with Jews and Arabs, this film traces the history of both groups in the region from ancient times to 1967. The issues are presented simply, in an even-handed manner, giving viewers an idea of the nature of the Arab-Israeli conflict. Study guide available.

Purple Lawns. Belfilms, Ltd. 1999. 56 minutes, Hebrew with English subtitles.

Two young secular girls sharing an apartment in Tel Aviv are forced to find a third roommate to help pay the rent. They meet Malka Kahanastein, a traditional ultra-Orthodox woman, who needs a place to live. Malka is forced to share her "secret" with the girls and together they try to help her.

Return from India: A Story of Forbidden Love. Sisu, 2004, 96 minutes, Hebrew with English subtitles.

Based on a novel by A.B. Yehoshua, this is the story of a young Israeli doctor who travels to India with his boss and his wife to help save the life of their sick daughter. An illicit romance between the wife and the doctor begins and continues when they return home. And then it gets really complicated. Note: contains sex and nudity.

Seder on Planet Matzah Ball. Sisu, 2004, color, 36 minutes.

Puppets, music and animation plus a zany story make this a laugh-out-loud, fun video with a Cleveland reference thrown in for good measure.

Entertaining for the preschool viewer.

The Way Home: Stories of Forgiveness. Faith and Values Media, 2004, vhs, 15 minutes, color.

There are three stories of personal and communal reconciliation on this film. The second story is about Postville, the town in Iowa where Hasidic Jews set up a meat packing plant and changed the culture of the town. The film shows how the Gentile residents of Postville and their new Jewish neighbors struggled to understand one another and to live amicably together.

DVD's

Bonjour Monsieur Shlomi. 94 minutes, color, Hebrew with English subtitles.

A comedy about an adolescent boy from a dysfunctional Israeli family who cooks and takes care of most of the household chores instead of developing his own talents. Note: Some provocative language and scenes.

James Journey to Jerusalem. Zeitgeist Films, 2004, 87 minutes, color, Hebrew with English subtitles (Zulu singing)

James, a devout Christian makes a pilgrimage from his African village to the Holy Land. Unfairly jailed, he becomes part of the migrant labor workforce in Tel Aviv. This social commentary is an astute exploration of the economic, moral and spiritual hypocrisies of society filtered through a portrait of modern Israel's cultural and generational divisions.

Hiding and Seeking. First Run Feature Films, 2004, 85 minutes, color.

Part road trip, part scavenger hunt and part philosophical inquiry, this is the story of a Jewish father who journeys with his two ultra-Orthodox sons back to Poland to try to find the Christian farmers who hid their family from the Nazis. To his sons, this is a land whose people are beyond redemption. The father hopes that if they can find examples of decency among Poles, his sons will recognize the potential for goodness in all people.

Komediant. New Yorker Video, 85 minutes, color and B&W., English, Hebrew and Yiddish.

The glory days of the Yiddish stage are brought to life in this saga of the legendary Burstein family. Archival footage and interviews with Yiddish stage veterans are combined to create a richly nostalgic film.

Monsieur Ibrahim. Sony, 2003, 95 min., color, French with English, Spanish, and Portuguese subtitles.

Monsieur Ibrahim is an elderly, Turkish widower, who owns a grocery store in a shabby, working class section of Paris. His life takes on new meaning when he befriends Momo, a lonely, Jewish teenage boy. Momo, deserted by both his mother and father, finds love and acceptance in this coming of age story.

Nowhere in Africa. Sony, 2002, 142 minutes, German with English subtitles. The story of a Jewish attorney and his family who flee the Nazi regime, in 1938, for a remote farm in Kenya. His relationship with his wife and daughter becomes increasingly complicated as they struggle to adjust to their new life.

Tevye. National Center for Jewish Film, Brandeis University, 1981, 96 minutes, B&W, Yiddish with English subtitles. (2004 release on DVD) Originally filmed in 1939, this is an adaptation of Sholom Aicheim's play that focuses on Khava, one of Tevye the Dairyman's daughters. Her marriage to a Ukrainian peasant pits Tevye's love for his daughter against his deeply held faith and loyalty to tradition. Tevye is played by the great Yiddish actor, Maurice Schwartz.



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