

TALKS

REDLAND QUAKER MEETING HOUSE • 126 Hampton Road • Redland • Bristol BS6 6EJ
Tickets included in annual 2021/22 subscription for DAVAR members • £5 non-members to be paid by BACS, please email info@davarbristol.co.uk for details. Talks also available via Zoom.

ERNEST BLOCH: MORE THAN A JEWISH COMPOSER

Thursday 10th February 7.30 pm
Yoav Ben-Shlomo • Bristol

Ernest Bloch, though not a religious Jew, is probably the most famous Jewish composer of the twentieth century. Born in Geneva in 1880, he studied in Brussels, Frankfurt, Munich and Paris before creating his “Jewish cycle” and ended his life in the USA. However, he also composed other important musical works including chamber music and symphonic works that were more impressionistic, influenced by Debussy and other 20th century composers. Whilst, much of his music has strong Jewish themes, he always viewed his works as universalistic with a message that “... transports us into another world and makes us think, feel, love differently.” This talk will play excerpts from many of his varied works to illustrate the power of this message.

Yoav Ben-Shlomo is a lover of music, including classical, jazz and klezmer. He has collected classical pieces inspired by Jewish themes over the years and enjoys sharing his love of music with others. Yoav is an academic at the University of Bristol and is Chair of DAVAR.



A LAND OF MILK AND MUFLETTA: WHAT ISRAELI FOOD SAYS ABOUT ISRAELI CULTURE

Thursday 10th March 7.30 pm
Joel Haber • Jerusalem

Israeli chefs have recently conquered the culinary world, but what about all those foods they left behind at home? What do these dishes say about Israel itself? From falafel to petitim, meurav Yerushalmi to mufleta, Joel will reveal the culture behind the distinctive foods that make Israel so deliciously... Israeli.

Joel Haber researches, writes about and lectures on the topic of Jewish food history, with a focus on understanding Jewish culture and history via its foods. His writing appears on his blog (www.tasteofjew.com) along with articles in such publications as The Nosh, Tradition and The Jewish Journal. He has spoken widely to hundreds of attendees, in both online and



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in-person venues in multiple countries. Joel is currently writing a book that examines Shabbat stews from around the world, using them as a way of tracing the routes of Jewish migrations throughout history. Additionally, Joel has worked as a licensed tour guide in Israel for nearly a decade. His most popular single tour is a culinary tasting and history tour in Jerusalem's famous outdoor market, Shuk Machane Yehuda. Joel was born and raised in New Jersey, lived for many years in both New York City and Los Angeles, and immigrated to Israel in March 2009. He is proud to live in the special city of Jerusalem.

THE STATE OF YIDDISH IN THE 21ST CENTURY

Thursday 14th April 7.30 pm
Izzy Posen • London

Following the extermination of Europe's Yiddish speaking Jewry in the holocaust and the assimilation of the remaining Yiddish speaking American Jews, many have considered Yiddish a dying language. But in fact, an estimated half a million native speakers of Yiddish currently live in Israel, North America, Europe and Australia and this is a young demographic with a high birth-rate and high language-retention rates. These are the Chassidic Jews, both romanticised and othered in equal measure by the wider Jewish community due to their highly insular lifestyle. Yiddish is not dead. Far from it. A highly productive and prodigious cultural Yiddish scene is flourishing in these communities, with all genres of literature, lyrical music and theatrical production. Yiddish is also the language of daily business, community affairs and home-running. In this talk we will sample some of this rich yet little-known culture, to experience a taste of Yiddish in the 21st century.

Izzy Posen grew up in the Chassidic community of Stamford Hill, London, where he received a classical Jewish education in the esteemed yeshivas of Europe. He then went on to study physics and philosophy at the University of Bristol and graduated with a master's degree in 2021. Izzy has been researching and lecturing about the Chassidic community and the Yiddish language for many years, as well as talking and writing about his experiences within the community and beyond. Izzy is also a professional English-Yiddish translator.



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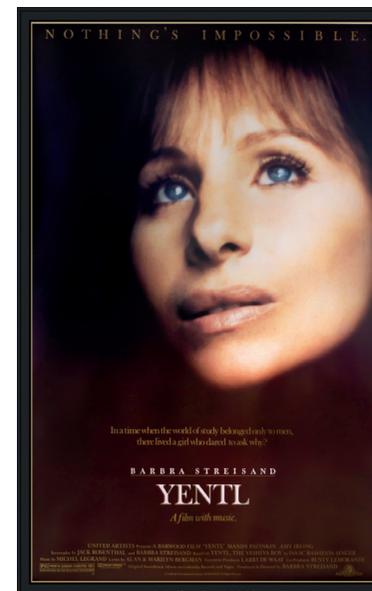
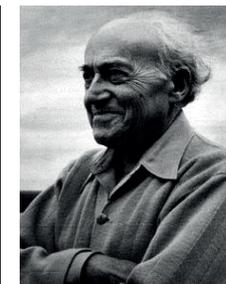
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FILMS & TALKS

Spring 2022 Programme



INFORMATION

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FILMS

THE ORPHEUS CINEMA •51 Northumbria Dr • Bristol • BS9 4HN

Tel: 0117 962 5852 • www.scottcinemas.co.uk

TICKETS: £5.80/£4.90 conc and students

Films start at 8pm (no ads or trailers).

Open to DAVAR and non-DAVAR members.

EVERYTHING IS ILLUMINATED

Wednesday 26th January

USA 2005, 104 mins, English,
Russian, Ukrainian

Director Liev Schreiber, featuring
Elijah Wood, Eugene Hütz



This American biographical comedy was adapted from Jonathan Safran Foer's novel of the same name. Jonathan Safran Foer, a young American Jew, goes on a quest to find the woman, Augustine, who saved his grandfather, Safran Foer, during the Holocaust in a small Ukrainian town called Trachimbrod that was wiped off the map when the Nazis liquidated Eastern European shtetls. His guides are a cranky, seemingly antisemitic grandfather, his wound-up dog named Sammy Davis Jr. Jr., and his enthusiastic grandson, Alex, who constantly chatters with a unique command of English and a passion for American pop culture that keeps the arduous journey lighter.

'Liev Schreiber's Everything is Illuminated begins in goofiness and ends in silence and memory. How it gets from one to the other is the subject of the film, a journey undertaken by three men and a dog into the secrets of the past.' (Robert Ebert)

YENTL

Wednesday 23rd February

USA 1983, 131 mins, English

Director Barbra Streisand



Yentl is an American romantic musical drama film directed, co-written, co-produced, and starring American entertainer Barbra Streisand. It is based on Isaac Bashevis Singer's short story 'Yentl the Yeshiva Boy'. The film incorporates humour and music to tell the story of an Ashkenazi Jewish girl in Poland who decides to dress and live like a boy so that she can receive an education in Talmudic Law after her father

dies. The film's musical score and songs were composed by Michel Legrand. The film received the Academy Award for Best Original Song Score and the Golden Globe Awards for Best Motion Picture—Musical or Comedy and Best Director for Streisand, making her the first woman to have won Best Director at the Golden Globes.

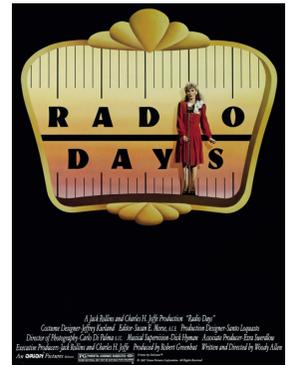
'The best thing about Yentl is its earnestness. It may resemble a vanity production from afar but even at its kitschiest it seems to be heartfelt' (Janet Maslin, NY Times)

RADIO DAYS

Wednesday 30th March

USA 1987, 85 mins, English

Director Woody Allen, featuring
Diane Keaton, Mia Farrow,
Jeff Daniels



Radio Days is an American comedy-drama film written and directed by Woody Allen, who also narrates. The film looks back on an American family's life during the Golden Age of Radio using both music and memories to tell the story. It stars an ensemble cast.

The film's soundtrack, which features songs from the 1930s and 40s, plays an integral part in the plot. It was released on cassette and compact disc in 1987 and includes tracks by Glenn Miller, Benny Goodman and Duke Ellington.

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