Twelfth Annual Other Israel Film Festival
Announces Guests and Special Events
Festival Runs November 1-8

NEW YORK (October 23, 2018) – The Marlene Meyerson JCC Manhattan’s 12th Annual Other Israel Film Festival running November 1-8, 2018, has announced its lineup of special guests and programs that will deepen the experience for all attendees.

This year, events will include panels on inclusiveness in Israeli film and the controversial nation-state law passed by the Israeli Knesset. There will also be opportunities to meet many stars, directors, and producers, many of whom will participate in Q&A sessions throughout the festival.

Award-winner director Iris Zaki will be in attendance during the US premiere of her new documentary “Unsettling,” the closing night film, featuring conversations with inhabitants of a West Bank settlement. Her previous film, “Women in Sink,” received praise and accolades from festivals around the world and was made into a New York Times Op-Doc.

“Foreign Land,” from Shlomi Eldar, was selected as Israel’s 2018 Ophir Award (Israeli Academy Award) winner for best documentary. The film follows Eldar’s struggles with Israel’s shift to the right and his experience as an outsider in the United States; it also tells the story of an Arab actor in Israel who feels a similar disconnect from his homeland. Eldar will join a conversation following the screening, which marks his return to the festival. In 2010, his award-winning film “Precious Life” closed the festival and was shortlisted for an Academy Award.

“Films at this year’s Other Israel Film Festival delve into societal issues that are at the forefront of the news,” said Isaac Zablocki, festival director. “From the ‘me too’ movement to immigration or Israel’s controversial nation-state law, we are not shying away from difficult topics, and instead, will explore them through film and in-depth discussions.”

Screenings and events will take place at The Marlene Meyerson JCC Manhattan on 76th Street and Amsterdam Avenue, as well as JCC Harlem, Brooklyn’s Alamo Drafthouse Cinema, and other locations throughout the city. For tickets and more information on screenings, special events, and guest appearances, visit otherisrael.org.

The festival was founded by Carole Zabar, a member of the Marlene Meyerson JCC Manhattan’s board of directors and a New York City icon. It is credited as being where producer Orin Wolf first saw “The Band’s Visit,” originally an Israeli film, and conceived the 2018 Tony Award-winning Broadway version. Many films screened at the festival have been picked up for distribution after premiering here.
Special Events Schedule:

**Opening Night: “The Cousin”**
Thursday, November 1, 7 p.m., Marlene Meyerson JCC Manhattan
Join us for red carpet festivities to celebrate opening night. A Q&A and reception will follow the screening.
Guests include: Director and actor Tzahi Grad
$36; advance registration required

**20s + 30s Friday Night Dinner**
Friday, November 2, 6:30 p.m., Marlene Meyerson JCC Manhattan
Join us for Shabbat dinner, drinks, a short film screening, and discussions with filmmakers and conversation on the challenges of building shared societies, in Israel and for Jewry worldwide. Presented in partnership with the New Israel Fund and Hand in Hand: Center for Jewish-Arab Education in Israel.
Guests include:
$25; advance registration required

**The “Other” in Israeli Cinema Panel**
Saturday, November 3, 3:30 p.m., Marlene Meyerson JCC Manhattan
Join this fascinating panel discussion to learn the history and challenges in elevating all voices of Israeli society through its film industry.
Guests include: Director Rana Abu Fraiha, “In Her Footsteps;” Director Michael Aviad, “Working Woman;” Director Eliezer Yaari, “The Optimists,” moderator
Free; advance registration required

**Other Israel Underground**
Saturday, November 3, 6:30 p.m., Silvana Café-Bar-Restaurant
The night begins at Silvana Café-Bar-Restaurant for drinks, then moves to JCC Harlem for a screening of “In Her Footsteps,” followed by conversations.
Guests include:
$15 at the door; includes one drink ticket

**Jewish + Democratic: The Nation-State Law + American Jews Panel**
Sunday, November 4, 4 p.m., Marlene Meyerson JCC Manhattan
Can Israel be a state that is both Jewish and democratic? How does this law change the balance? What is the role of American Jewry in this equation? Join us for an interactive panel discussion as we try to answer these questions.
Guests include: Director Rana Abu Fraiha, “In Her Footsteps;” Journalist Peter Beinart; Rabbi Ayelet Cohen, moderator
$5; advance registration required

**Closing Night: “Unsettling”**
Thursday, November 8, 6 p.m., Marlene Meyerson JCC Manhattan
Join us for the red carpet closing night festivities, beginning with a pre-screening reception, a Q&A, and after party at Gazala’s.
Guests include: Director Iris Zaki; Executive Director of Encounter Yona Shem-Tov, moderator
$18; advance registration required
About the Other Israel Film Festival
Founded in 2007, the Other Israel Film Festival presents high-quality cinema that highlights populations in Israel that are not Jewish. The films take an in-depth look at the intersection of Israeli and Palestinian societies, as well as Israel’s other minority populations. Through its films, the Other Israel Film Festival explores themes relating to human stories and social justice challenges for Israel and its neighbors. The festival aims to inspire meaningful conversations and advocacy for a more inclusive Israel. Learn more at otherisrael.org.

About the Marlene Meyerson JCC Manhattan
Together with its community, the Marlene Meyerson JCC Manhattan creates opportunities for people to connect, grow, and learn within an ever-changing Jewish landscape. Located on 76th Street and Amsterdam Avenue, the JCC is a vibrant non-profit community center on the Upper West Side. The cornerstone of progressive programming in Manhattan, the JCC serves over 55,000 people annually through 1,200 programs each season that educate, inspire, and transform participants' minds, bodies, and spirits. Since its inception, the JCC has been committed to serving the community by offering programs, classes, and events that reach beyond neighborhood boundaries, reaching people at all stages of their lives. Learn more at jccmanhattan.org.

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