

Providence Jewish Community Center

401 Elmgrove Avenue, Providence, RI 02906

401-861-8800 • <http://www.jccri.org/>

Tickets: \$10 general public; \$5.00 for JCC members

Sun., 8/15:

2:00 p.m.

Mig og Jøderiet (Me and the Jewish Thing)

Directed by Ulrik Gutkin

42 min. Denmark/Israel, 2009

Me and the Jewish Thing is a cheerful and confronting documentary study of the collision of two cultures. The documentary paints an intimate picture of what it means to be a non-religious Jew in Denmark today. A Danish Jewish man (the director) and a Danish non-Christian woman (the girlfriend) falls in love. When the girlfriend gives birth to a baby boy they find themselves at the horns of a dilemma - is their son to be circumcised or not? A question that sets the director off on a personal quest to learn more about his Jewish identity.

Esther & Me

Directed by Lisa Geduldig

33 min. U S A, 2010

A touching and humorous portrait of San Francisco Jewish nursing home resident, Esther Weintraub, a funny, feisty, politically-minded, former model, former comedian, who comes back to life when a spring chicken in her 40's (comedian/comedy producer, Lisa Geduldig) befriends her. Despite the vast age difference, the two become inseparable friends. Through the use of interviews and archival and contemporary photos, the film traces Esther's story over the course of 74 years from age 15 as a professional violinist in a Canadian mandolin orchestra to age 89 as a San Francisco Jewish nursing home resident. The film is a retrospective of Esther's unique and varied life and her relationship with first-time filmmaker, Lisa Geduldig, who brought Esther back onstage at age 87 to perform comedy.

4:00 p.m.

VALENTINA'S MOTHER

Directed by Matti Harari & Arik Lubetzky

75 min. Israel, 2008

Paula, 79 years old lives alone in Israel, surrounded by feelings of loneliness and worthlessness. Friedel, her closest friend brings her Valentina, a Polish girl, to take care of her. Valentina stirs in Paula old, repressed memories from the Holocaust. Slowly, she reveals the fabric of her life to the Polish girl, and at the same time grows more dependent on her. The young Polish girl is scared by Paula's growing obsession with her, and decides to leave. Paula refuses to accept it.