

Chaim Topol, Elliott Gould to make appearances at SV Jewish Film Festival

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Like a well-planned meal, the 22nd annual Silicon Valley Jewish Film Festival will have something to please every cinematic palate. There will be dramas, several documentaries, comedy gold and music aplenty. A total of 24 films will be shown Oct. 19 through Nov. 17 at venues on the Peninsula and South Bay. Figures as varied as "Hizzoner" Ed Koch, philosopher/writer Hannah Arendt and film director Roman Polanski each get a star turn. Titles range from *The Gatekeepers*, a documentary on six former heads of the Israeli security agency Shin Bet, to *My Awkward Sexual Adventure*, a comedy about a conservative accountant who explores his crazy carnal side.

On opening night, Oct. 19, beloved actor Chaim Topol will be honored at 8 p.m. at the Oshman Family Jewish Community Center, 3921 Fabian Way, Palo Alto. Highlights from the Israeli legend's 50-plus-year career will be presented, with a reception to follow. Topol will also be on hand at the community center 2:30 p.m. the following afternoon, Oct. 20, to introduce a sing-along of *Fiddler on the Roof*, his most famous film.

Motion picture and TV veteran Elliott Gould headlines a 5 p.m. closing-night reception at the OFJCC for a screening of his 2011 comedy, *Dorfman in Love*. The star of such movies as *MASH* and *Ocean's Eleven*, as well as Showtime's *Ray Donovan*, will answer audience questions afterward.

The OFJCC is one of three venues where films in the month-long festival will unspool; the others are the Century 24 in San Jose, 741 Winchester Blvd., San Jose, and the PruneYard's Camera 7, 1875 S. Bascom Avenue, Campbell. In addition, on Nov. 3 there will be free film fare for kids (two episodes of *Shalom Sesame*) and teens (*David*, about a Muslim boy who befriends several Orthodox Jewish boys) at the Addison-Penzak Jewish Community Center, 14855 Oka Road, Los Gatos.

Other offerings on the festival menu include:

A.K.A. Doc Pomus--A documentary about songwriter Doc Pomus, who was born Jerome Felder and was the prolific creator of rock 'n' roll hits like "This Magic Moment" and "Viva Las Vegas."

Closed Season--A Jewish man fleeing the Nazis is given shelter by an impotent farmer. In exchange, the man is asked to father a child with the farmer's wife.

God's Neighbors--A trio of young Israelis attempt to enforce religious law in their Bat Yam neighborhood with baseball bats and fists.

In the Shadow--A police detective sets out to prove that Jews are innocent of a robbery in 1950s Czechoslovakia.

For all movie times and locations, visit svjff.org.

Tickets are \$11 in advance, \$13 at the door (\$9.50 and \$11 for seniors). \$70 opening night (advance and at the door), \$25/\$30 closing night. Available at svjff.org or 800.838.3006.