



Contents



4

Who We Are

Welcome Letter MJFF in 2022 Audience Experience

The Festival

| Straeli Cinema

Israeli Cinema
Silent Film Program
Made in Florida
Accessibility+Inclusion
Next Wave
Ibero-American Cinema
Miami Jewish Film Festival Day
Miami Beach OnStage!
In Conversation
Live Festival Experience
Media Coverage

26

Year-Round

Community Initiatives
Year-Round Program
Israeli Film Series
Five Star Cinema Series
Screening the Holocaust
Member Sneak Previews

35

Artistic Excellence

Recognized as one of the "50 Best Film Festivals in the World" by MovieMaker Magazine

37

Growth Analysis

Social Media Audience Growth

39

Sustainability

Corporate Sponsors Film Society Members

Building Connections & Embracing Change

This was a momentous milestone edition for the Miami Jewish Film Festival, a year in which adventurous audiences everywhere engaged with our program and platform. We are thrilled to have met and even exceeded our goal of expanding the reach and community for independent film in this challenging year.

In spite of the challenges, the Miami Jewish Film Festival embraced innovation to bring films, conversation, and education into audiences' homes and across Greater Miami. In the following pages, we share our successes from the 2021-22 season, which confirm what we have always believed: that film helps us better understand one another, encourages empathy, and creates a more engaged and connected world. These timeless values drew record audiences to the Miami Jewish Film Festival this year and, we believe, will endure when the time comes to welcome guests back to our cinemas.

With the support of our community partners, as well as the leadership at the Center for the Advancement of Jewish Education (CAJE), we brought the buzz of the festival back into Miami with fourteen incredible days of public programming under the stars, and introduced over one hundred amazing filmmakers, guests, and ambassadors to virtual audiences.

Every year, the festival brings the very best in Jewish and global filmmaking to audiences from around the world. At the milestone 25th MJFF, we showcased a record-setting 148 film premieres, representing an incredible 25 countries, with 37% of titles directed, co-directed, or created by women. Going hybrid and activating a digital component to the festival significantly expanded our reach across all 50 states and 100 countries. In total, the 2022 Miami Jewish Film Festival served more than 60,000 virtual and inperson attendees.

We also intensified the festival's overall diversity and inclusion efforts and our

support for women both in front of and behind the camera. MJFF's inclusion initiative encompassed the "Next Wave" program targeted for 21-35-year-old college students and young professionals, the "Focus on LGBT cinema" program, and the "Accessibility+Inclusion" program that highlighted the diversity and commonality of the human experience, bringing awareness and appreciation for the lives, stories, and artistic expression of people with disabilities.

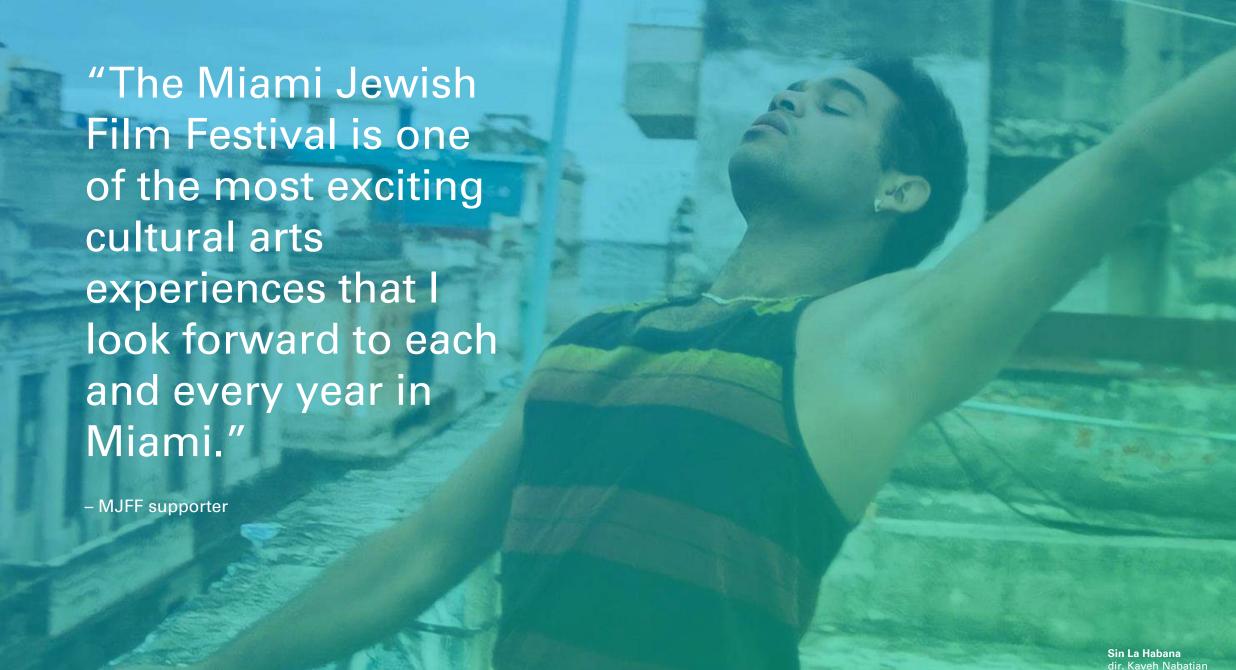
This year marked MJFF as not only the largest film festival of its kind, but also for a second year in a row it received the prestigious recognition of being one of the "50 Best Film Festivals in the World" by MovieMaker Magazine, the first time ever that a Jewish festival was honored in the publications twenty-year history. MJFF was once again the only Florida film festival listed in this year's edition.

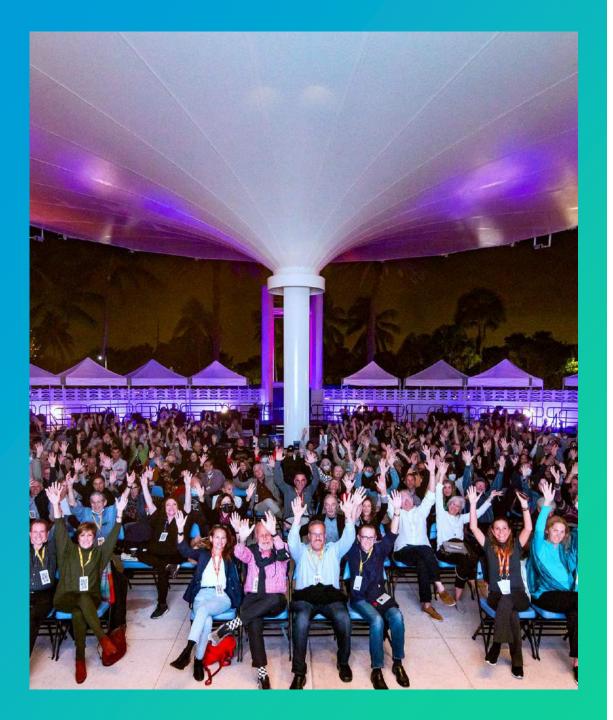
In 2021-22, the Miami Jewish Film Festival maintained and enhanced its standing as a global leader in creative and cultural discovery, and reinforced its commitment to transforming the way our audiences see the world through film. Enclosed within this report, we share our successes from a challenging but rewarding year. Through audience surveys and feedback from external stakeholders, we know our loyal audiences remain engaged with MJFF along with newly discovered film lovers from across the country. Our doors will open again, and we look forward to welcoming you back into theaters.



Igor Shteyrenberg

Barbara Black Goldfarb **Board Chair**





MJFF in 2022

In the midst of a pandemic, the Miami Jewish Film Festival maintained its commitment to putting audiences first, discovering emerging talent, and championing established filmmakers. This past year saw us redefine what a traditional venue might be, as regular programming shifted largely to outdoor presentations and to the virtual space. The hybrid online and in-person festival format transformed the viewer experience and significantly expanded accessibility to national audiences for the first time. Seven different outdoor venues across Greater Miami hosted the 2022 festival, establishing MJFF as the first and only program in the US to have its entire inperson event experienced outdoors.

We presented the best in international and Israeli cinema in the largest Jewish festival program in the world, featuring 148 film premieres representing 25 countries. By asking filmmakers to participate remotely in virtual Q&As, panels, and talk-backs for their films, we connected talent with audiences and recreated an intimate front-row experience. MJFF's programming continues to be in the vanguard of major festivals for its diversity of storytelling: within the lineup, 37% of films were directed or co-directed by women — and 22 films were directed by first-time filmmakers.

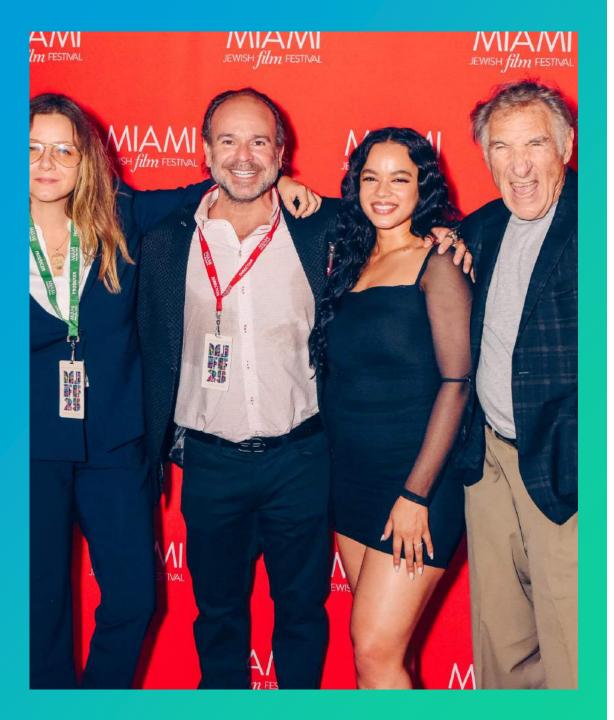
 \leftarrow

Opening Night at the historic North Beach Bandshell featuring the world premiere of the made-in-Miami film **iMordecai**



MJFF supporter





Audience Experience

The Miami Jewish Film Festival had its biggest, buzz-iest year yet! Each year, thousands of new attendees come away from the Festival with revelatory experiences, whether it's seeing an inspiring film, meeting new friends, or making a deal to distribute a first film. Cinema is an art form with endless possibilities. Our curatorial choices are based on a deep respect for, and profound belief in the medium, its creators, and its viewers. During the Miami Jewish Film Festival and its year-round program, our commitment to providing transformational experiences for our audiences takes shape through curated film programs and events, where art and conversation meet to change the way people see the world.





The Festival Program

Maintaining its position as the largest Jewish film festival in the world, the Miami Jewish Film Festival boasted 108 features and 40 short films from 25 countries and regions in its 2022 edition, welcoming over **150 filmmakers**. Audiences were dazzled by under the stars premieres, discovered the next generation of director heavyweights, and experienced myriad forms of the filmmaking craft. MJFF hosted a hybrid program featuring in-person, under the stars showings across Greater Miami, as well as on its expanded virtual platform, all of which was offered for free to the general public. Following their premieres at MJFF, many films went on to earn international acclaim through high-profile nominations and awards.

60,000

Total audience served at the Festival

148

Film premieres presented at the Festival

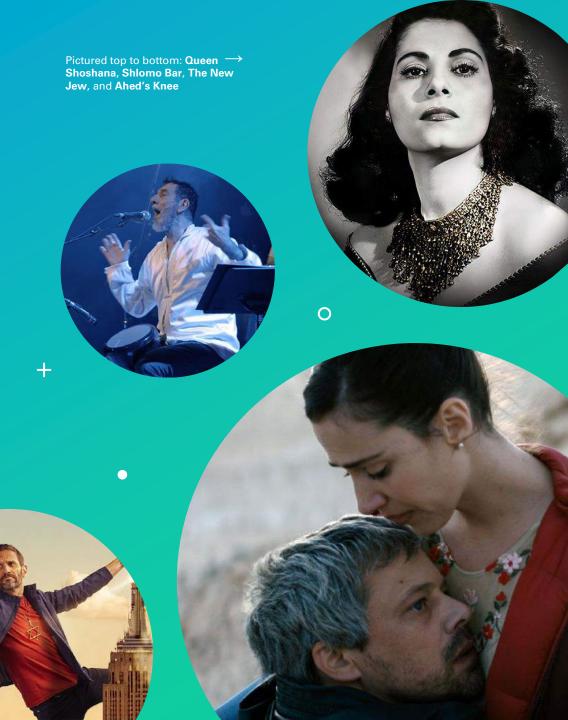
0

63

Filmmakers, stars, and special guests representing 25 countries participated in Q&A's, panels, and talk-backs at the Festival

Israeli Cinema Showcase

The 2022 Miami Jewish Film Festival celebrated more than 30 Israeli films, the largest Israeli film program in North America, which featured titans of Israeli cinema, including Nadav Lapid (Ahed's Knee), Nir Bergman (Just for Today), and Eran Kolirin's new critical sensation Let It Be Morning, which was Israel's official entry to the Academy Awards for Best International Feature Film. There were also laugh-out-loud comedies (Greener Pastures), thought-provoking documentaries (The Eternal Flame), and adventurous dramas (Death of Cinema and My Father Too) for audiences to discover. For the first time in the Festival's history, two Israeli feature films went on to win Jury Prizes: The Swimmer (Critics Jury Prize) and All Eyes Off Me (Next Wave Jury Prize).



Yiddish Silent Film Program

As part of its **Knight Arts Challenge** winning project, MJFF commissioned local artists to create original film scores that were performed live alongside Yiddish and Jewish silent films newly restored by the National Center for Jewish Film. The series of screening events took place at The Betsy Hotel's outdoor Atrium located on the legendary Ocean Drive strip and was made available for free to the public. Through this program, MJFF aimed to create unique, multidisciplinary synergies that contributed to a richer ecosystem for artists and South Florida audiences.

Pictured top to bottom: live performances at The Betsy Hotel's outdoor Atrium







Spotlighting Films Made in Florida

For the first time in MJFF's history, the festival opened with a Miami-made world premiere feature film, iMordecai, a heart-warming comedy that is a love letter to the city of Miami that starred Academy Awardnominated and two-time Emmywinning actor Judd Hirsch, and Academy Award-nominated actors Sean Astin and Carol Kane. The Festival's focus on "Made in Florida" films also included the world premieres of Against All Odds: Surviving the Holocaust, Donyoni, Ezra, and Sylvie of the Sunshine State, a touching documentary that shared an honest glimpse into modern motherhood.



0

Accessibility & Inclusion Program

MJFF's inaugural Accessibility+Inclulsion program focused on showcasing films that that highlight the diversity and commonality of the human experience, bringing awareness and appreciation for the lives, stories, and artistic expression of people with disabilities. As part of this program, MJFF presented eleven films that served to uphold shared human values, equity, and fostered understanding through the power of cinema. Most importantly, the program served as a reminder that we must all engage in the Jewish concept of "tikkun olam," or "repairing the world," and do so in the spirit of bettering our community by creating new bridges.

Pictured top to bottom: **Prognosis**, A Reason to Live, The Specials, and Just As I Am









Next Wave Initiative Film Program

For a sixth year, MJFF hosted a dedicated section for its Next Wave initiative, a program targeted to youth between the ages of 21-35, which featured more than a dozen film premieres, including the award-winning films Charm Circle and Death of Cinema and My Father Too, the international premiere of Tel Aviv, the world premiere of Converts, and the premieres of The Raft, We Burn Like This, and Wet Dog, among others.

A special youth jury from demographics comprised of people who are passionate about sharing their love of film with their peers selected the winning film in the Next Wave program. More than **8,000** youth watched films in the program, setting a new audience record.

Pictured top to bottom: The Raft, Converts, Tel Aviv, and We Burn Like This







0

Ibero-American Cinema

MJFF is dedicated to celebrating the new exciting works of some of today's most talented, established, as well as up-and-coming filmmakers from Argentina, Spain, and Brazil. By bringing these international films to Miami, we're presenting the city and the film industry with a singular platform that increases cultural understanding and encourages artistic development.

Notable films that premiered in this special focus on Ibero-American cinema include the US Premieres of Alegria and The Replacement (Spain), and the premieres of Leaving Paradise (Brazil), Red Star (Argentina), and Xueta Island (Spain).

Pictured top to bottom: Leaving Paradise,
Alegria, Xueta Island, and The Replacement











in the City of Miami Beach. MAYOR Dan Gelber Commissioner Kristen Rosen Gonzalez Commissioner Steven Meiner Commissioner Mark Samuelian Commissioner Ricky Arriola Commissioner Mark J. Fernandey Commissioner David Richardson

"Miami Jewish Film Festival Day"

During the milestone 25th Miami Jewish Film Festival, the City of Miami Beach Commissioners recognized the Festival by officially making Thursday, January 20, 2022 "Miami Jewish Film Festival Day." It was an incredible honor reflecting years of commitment and service the Festival has invested in creating accessible, inclusive, and noteworthy destination events in the City of Miami Beach for residents and tourists alike.

Miami Beach OnStage!

Presented in partnership with the City of Miami Beach's OnStage! cultural arts initiative, MJFF hosted free family movies nights at Miami Beach's public parks before and during the festival. Children and adults were able to relive the magic and adventure of beloved films, such as Steven Spielberg's family classic E.T. the **Extra-Terrestrial** for its 40th Anniversary at Muss Park, a special 35th Anniversary presentation of the high-spirited fairy tale **The** Princess Bride at Altos Del Mark Park, the classic musical Little Shop of Horrors for its 35th Anniversary at Collins Park, and the holiday classic **Home Alone** under the stars at Lummus Park, right on the Ocean Drive strip.



International TV Shows

Building on the Festival's expanded virtual platform, MJFF presented a dedicated block featuring noteworthy international TV series, including: the entire season of the mouthwatering Israeli show The Chef from the producers of Fauda and Shtisel, the limited series The New Jew that is hosted by one of Israel's most popular comedians and TV personalities Guri Alfi, the enthralling miniseries Labyrinth of Peace set in "neutral" Switzerland after WWII, and an entire season of Nir Bergman's (MJFF 2021 Audience Award Winner Here We Are) Tel Aviv set drama Just for Today, which won the **Special Jury Prize at Cannes Series** Mania.

Pictured top to bottom: Labyrinth of Peace,
The Chef, and Just for Today







0

In Conversation Virtual Program

The lineup for the 25th Miami Jewish Film Festival went well beyond feature and short films — it also brought a robust program of online special events and conversations that were all available for free to the global public. Featuring internationally renowned filmmakers like Sergei Loznitsa (Babi Yar. Context), Vadim Perelman (Persian Lessons), and Bianca Stigter (Three Minutes – A Lengthening), and so many more, 3,000 audience members dived in and explored the Festival's more than 50 fascinating conversations, Q&A's, and special panels about independent storytelling — and all were free to watch from home.









Live Festival Experience

Despite the hardships COVID-19 had brought, MJFF reported a historic level of attendance for its milestone 25th edition. Part virtual, part outdoor event, the 2022 Miami Jewish Film Festival boasted the largest-ever audience in the festival's two-decade history, marking MJFF once again the largest Jewish film festival in the world. More than 130 films were available on MJFF's virtual platform, with more than 40 also available nationwide and all for free to the general public. Audiences responded enthusiastically — nearly 36,000 views took place in the state of Florida and 19,000 views took place in all 50 states as well as Washington D.C., Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands, in addition to more than **100** countries.

 \leftarrow

Pictured top to bottom: under the stars screenings at the Miami Beach JCC, University of Miami, and at the historic North Beach Bandshell "The team at the Miami Jewish Film Festival is unparalleled. Where many decided to close their doors as well as their minds, they rallied and brilliantly thought outside of the box and placed magic into the viewing experience. To watch the films in such a majestic setting, under the moon and stars of Miami Beach was a once in a lifetime experience. Thank you so much for everything! It was truly an experience of a lifetime!

- Marvin Samel, Director of iMordecai



Major Media Coverage

The Miami Jewish Film Festival in 2022 received more than 420 million worldwide press and advertising impressions. The Festival has been covered by national outlets such as The New York Times, The Hollywood Reporter, CNN, Variety, The Forward, Jerusalem Post, and The Times of Israel, as well as local outlets including The Miami Herald, El Nuevo Herald, the Miami New Times, The Sun Sentinel, Diario Las Americas, and Miami Art Zine, in addition to broadcast media from NBC6 to CBS and WPLG Local 10.















"The Miami Jewish Film Festival represents the innovative, courageous and nimble spirit essential for reinvigoration, especially during these tumultuous times. Each year it celebrates our resilience, our diversity, and our capacity for creativity and making change."

- The Sun Sentinel





Community Initiatives

The Miami Jewish Film Festival works with over **25 community partners**, including Miami-Dade NAACP, Miami Jewish Abilities Alliance, and Sephardi Voices, to create inclusive environments for connection and self-expression through film. Our impactful programs — including free screenings, talks, and events — ensure everyone in our community has access to the arts to experience film's unique power to share original stories, diverse perspectives, and rich emotional journeys.









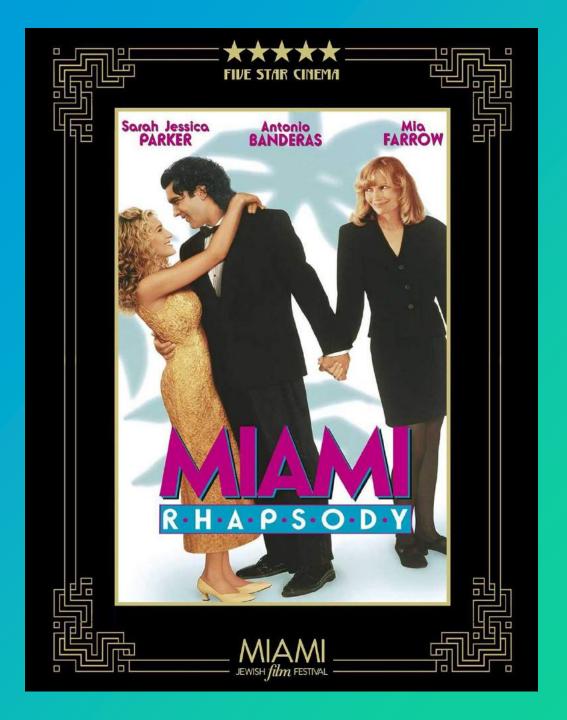








Coda dir. Sian Heder



Year-Round Program

In our 25-year history, the Miami Jewish Film Festival has risen to be one of the pre-eminent programming institutions of its kind. Our inspired approach, the quality of our presentation, and the serious consideration we give all genres and periods of cinema is now internationally renowned. In addition to our marquee festival, MJFF presents an ambitious selection of films year-round, including acclaimed directors' retrospectives, special sneak previews and advance screenings, spotlights on thematic programs, experimental cinema, exclusive limited runs, and many new and rare archival presentations in partnership with numerous community organizations. In total, this year the Festival hosted **58 film** events, presented 10 free film series, featured 23 educational components, and served 20,000 audience members.

 \leftarrow

Miami Rhapsody dir. David Frankel

20,000

Total audience served through MJFF's year-round program

58

Film events presented during MJFF's year-round program

0

23

Guest speakers and filmmakers who participated in Q&A's, panels, and talk-backs during MJFF's year-round program

Seventh Annual Israeli Film Series

Continuing the annual tradition of spotlighting national cinemas from around the globe, the Miami Jewish Film Festival mounted its popular Israeli Film Series in partnership with the Miami Beach JCC and Michael-Ann Russell JCC.

This aesthetically rich series included ten riveting films featuring many of Israel's most acclaimed contemporary actors and filmmakers, including Shira Haas, Eytan Fox, Dani Menkin, and Talya Lavie, among many others. More than 3,600 audience members across the United States tuned in or joined inperson for special "under the stars" screenings.



Five Star Cinema Series

New this year, and as a response to these challenging times, the Festival launched a special one-of-a-kind outdoor series in partnership with the Miami Beach JCC celebrating some of the most memorable, awe-inspiring, and joyous movies from around the world. The program was free to the community and featured numerous iconic and acclaimed films, including the Barbra Streisand slapstick comedy What's Up, Doc?, the made-in-Miami gem Miami **Rhapsody** featuring an introduction by director David Frankel, and a special presentation for Yom HaShoah of The Song of Names, which was accompanied by a live performance.

Pictured top to bottom: The Song of Names, Miami Rhapsody, and What's Up, Doc?







Screening the Holocaust Film Series

For the sixth year, MJFF partnered with the Holocaust Teacher's Institute, the Sue & Leonard Miller Center for Contemporary Judaic Studies at the University of Miami, and the Holocaust Memorial Miami Beach to present the Screening the Holocaust Film Series.

At this time of incredible challenge and change, the films presented in the series celebrate our resilience, diversity, and capacity for tolerance and cultural understanding. More than **4,000 audience members** joined in viewing this meaningful and poignant series.



Members Sneak Previews

Miami Jewish Film Society Members come from every walk of life with perspectives and tastes as wide and varied as our diverse communities. Designed to appeal to every film fan, each month the Festival hosts special sneak previews of some of the season's most anticipated releases.

This past year, MJFF hosted more than twenty exclusive screenings of major Hollywood films, including Unforgivable starring Sandra Bullock, The Card Counter starring Oscar Isaac, Sweet Girl starring Jason Momoa, The Guilty starring Jake Gyllenhaal, King Richard starring Will Smith, Stillwater starring Matt Damon, Ice Road starring Liam Neeson, the documentary Roadrunner about the late Anthony Bourdain, and the acclaimed films CODA, Being the Ricardos, and Belfast, which are frontrunners for this year's Academy Awards.

Pictured top to bottom: Will Smith in King Richard,
Nicole Kidman & Javiar Bardem in Being the
Ricardos, and Andrew Bourdain in Roadrunner











"50 Best Film Festivals in the World"

For the second year in a row, the Miami Jewish Film Festival was named one of the "50 Best Film Festivals in the World" by MovieMaker Magazine, one of the film industry's most celebrated publications. We are so deeply proud to once again receive this distinct honor, the **first time ever** that a Jewish film festival has not only been recognized by this prestigious magazine, but twice in consecutive years. The Miami Jewish Film Festival is also the only Florida film festival included in this year's edition. Since launching 25 years ago, the Miami Jewish Film Festival has proved its relevance year after year and has been one of the driving forces behind the circulation of Jewish and Israeli films and film talents around the world.

"Hands down the best Jewish film festival in the US. Always finds the gems. Expanding every year and setting the standard for the rest."

MJFF supporter





Social Media Growth

MJFF expanded our reach and moved more audiences across the world than ever before! Beyond our online programming, which served nearly 100,000 audience members in total this year from around the globe, the Festival grew its social media reach to record numbers. With more than 3 million views on the web, over 218,000 views on YouTube, and 270,000 views on Facebook alone, MJFF drew nearly 750,000 new viewers this year, due in part to the rapid expansion of our online programs.



16,300 Followers



4,800 Followers



900 Followers

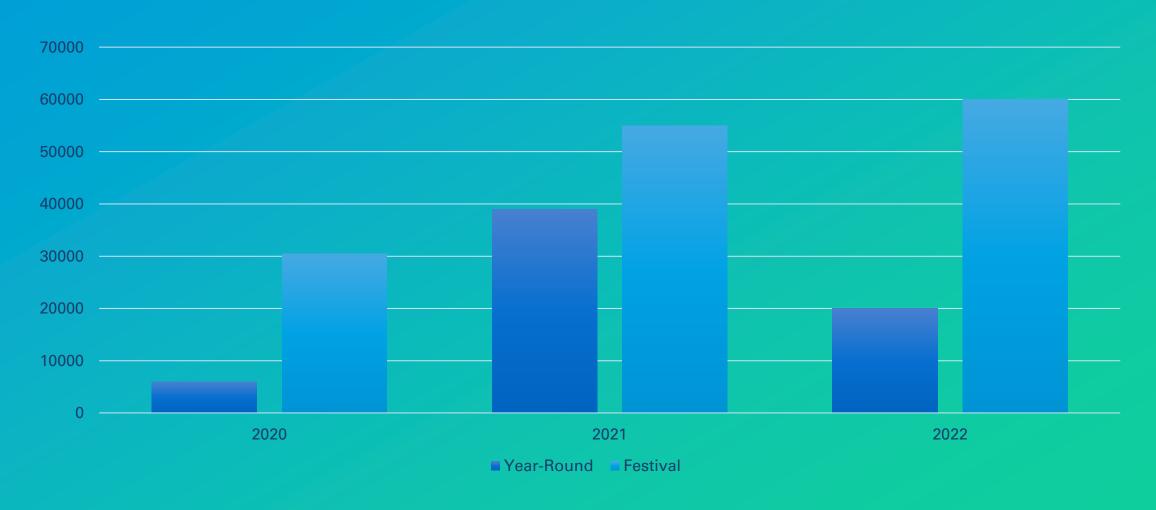


1,400 Subscribers

Annual Audience Growth







PRESENTING SPONSORS





PRODUCING SPONSORS





















SUPPORTING SPONSORS











THANK YOU TO OUR FILM SOCIETY SPONSORS

Bonnie Aibel

Deborah Kaufman & Moe Alkobadi

Tammy & Gil Aronson

Cindy & David Berger

Linda Schechter & Robert G. Berrin

Dea & Gary Birnberg

The Scheck & Bonwitt Families

Danny Mizrachi & Robert Bourne

Irma & Norman Braman

Susan & Steve Caller

Moj & Robert Danial

Raquel & Riccardo Di Capua

Susie & Jon Diamond

Michelle & Robert Diener

Evelyn & Sergio Faigenblat

Paula & Mickey Finkle

Mikki & Morris Futernick

Ella Gelvan

Ruthy & Leo Ghitis

Susie & Richard A. Golden

Barbara & Robert Goldfarb

Irma & Michael Goldstein

Becky & Larry Herrup

Jodi & Frank Hessel

Faye Tzippy Holand

Judith & Dr. Jonathon Hyde

Elaine & Danny Katz

Evelyn & Dr. Shmuel Katz

Lizbeth & George Krupp

Linda & Murray Laulicht

Marc Levin

Rhoda Levitt

Diane & Alan Lieberman

Joan Schaeffer & Roberta Mandel

Alison & Rick Mars

Tamar Roodner & Benjamin Nahum

Maxene & Eugene Posman

Lisa & David Pulver

Efrat Zarren-Zohar & Avi Rosenberg

Linda & Wayne Saker

Elena & Lee Salomon

Amy & David Scharlin

Drs. Ellen Greenebaum & Simeon Schwartz

Lily S. & David Serviansky

Jayne Shapiro

Jacqueline Simkin

Linda & Bob Spiegelman

Cindy & Mark Soloway

Dr. & Mrs. Elliott & Tracev Stein

Jodi & Paul Tartell

Amy Tobin

Dr. & Mrs. Michael Troner

Judith & Morris Tuchman

Hedy & Daniel Whitebook

Jessie Wolfson

Kandy Kramer & Richard Yulman

Jania Victoria & Dean Ziff

