

'Famous Nathan' opens film series

BY MARVIN GLASSMAN
SPECIAL TO THE JOURNAL

"Famous Nathan," a documentary on hot dog entrepreneur Nathan Handwerker, will open the Jewish Film Series Jan. 22-28 at Silverspot Cinema in Coconut Creek.

The 13 film series of both documentaries and theatrical films will showcase films with Jewish-themed subjects made in France, Germany, Hungary, Israel, Poland, Spain, United Kingdom and United States.

The Jewish Film Series is part of Silverspot Cinema's "The Global Experience," showcasing independent films

from around the world in 2016.

"The Jewish Film Series will enrich, entertain and educate filmgoers about diverse Jewish and Israeli topics with films from around the world," said Randi Emerman, senior director of marketing at Silverspot Cinema.

"The high caliber of films we are showing throughout the year are normally only seen at prestigious film festivals," Emerman added.

"Famous Nathan" tells the story of how a Jewish immigrant from Poland with a minimal formal education built a modest hot dog stand on Coney Island that was to



Filmmaker
Lloyd
Handwerker.
Submitted photo

become a famous eatery. Lloyd Handwerker, grandson of Nathan, made the documentary

as a tribute to the grandfather he barely knew, featuring interviews with family, friends and the staff of Nathan's as a rags to riches story.

"Nathan was very exact about how the hot dog should look, taste and he would never compromise on the product. That is what made him so successful," said Lloyd Handwerker.

"Despite the famous hot dog, Nathan himself was very humble. He was happy to be anonymous and retired to Miami Beach in the 1970s. The employees loved working for Nathan and Nathan lived to work on the hot dog stand every

day," Handwerker added.

Along with "Famous Nathan," two more documentaries are featured in the Jewish Film Series.

"Censored Voices" is an Israeli film on the 1967 Six Day War featuring conversations from Israeli soldiers who returned home from the war. Because the Israeli army of the era censored the recordings, the interviews will be heard for the first time.

"Peggy Guggenheim: Art Addict" is an American documentary on the socialite who became a well-respected art col-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16

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lector in the 20th century and promoted the talents of artists such as Salvador Dali in the early stages of their careers.

The 10 theatrical films offer both a dramatic and humorous look at popular subjects. Highlights include the Israeli film "Atomic Falafel," which is the story of two girls from nuclear towns in Iran and Israel that spill their countries most valuable military secrets on Facebook while trying to prevent a nuclear war.

The British film "Dough" is a comedy about a Jewish booker keeping his business afloat while his Muslim apprentice accidentally drops cannabis into the

dough resulting in soaring sales.

"Fire Birds" is a dramatic Israeli film looking at a police detective who investigates the death of a Holocaust survivor.

"The Law," made in France, is a dramatic portrait of France's health minister Simone Veil, a Holocaust survivor who helped legalize abortion in France in 1972.

The German film "Let's Go" explores how Holocaust survivors rebuild their lives in Germany following the end of World War II.

"Self Made" is an Israeli film about two women – one Israeli, one Palestinian, who are on different sides of a border. The women switch sides and learn about the life of the other on the

opposite side of the border.

"Serial Bad Weddings," made in France, is a comedy about Catholic parents who see their four daughters marry men of different religions and origins.

"Summer Solstice," made in Germany and Poland, has a German soldier, a Jewish girl from Warsaw, a Polish farmer's daughter and another Polish man all involved in a romantic story set in Poland during 1943.

For screening dates and times of each film in the Jewish Film Series at Silverspot Cinema, 4441 Lyons Road in Coconut Creek, call 954-840-8150 or go to www.silverspot.net

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