**Van Leer Group Foundation**

**JFC Report October 2018**

1. **Recent updates:**
   1. **Budget projection for the end of 2018: budget expected to be balanced (for the fifth consecutive year).**
   2. **In the meeting held in October between Van Leer and Cinematheque representatives, a decision was made to continue the partnership and to hold a Turkish cinema festival in June 2019.**
   3. **The Van Leer Group Foundation approved support for the renovation project of the JFC’s main movie theatre. The renovations are scheduled to begin in the latter half of 2019 provided that the Jerusalem Municipality agrees to match the funding.**
   4. **The “Cultural Loyalty” law and other steps taken by the Ministry of Culture in regards to supporting cinema establishments in Israel: the Israeli Minister of Culture is currently working to change the criteria that must be met by cultural establishments in order to enjoy government support. The goal of this is to secure maximum authority over distributing the cultural budget as she sees fit, according to her own political considerations. Among other goals, the Minister of Culture is striving to significantly limit the power of film foundations, to eliminate the budgets allotted to film industry unions, and to withdraw ongoing support from the Cinematheques. (The law proposes, that instead, in accordance with the new criteria, any cinema that screens 25 Israeli movies a year, provided they are successful movies, will receive a share of the meager budget that has thus far been allotted to the issue of making movies available to the public. Until now, this issue has been the exclusive purview of professional institutions - i.e. the Israeli Cinematheques. However, according to the new criteria, extensive cinematic activity that includes homages to international cinema, no longer qualifies for support.) The JFC is preparing a legal appeal on the new criteria for support proposed by the Ministry of Culture.**

**The most prominent legislative action taking place in this regard is the Minister’s efforts to pass the “Cultural Loyalty” law. Essentially, the proposed law aims to impose budgetary sanctions, at the discretion of the Minister of Culture, on bodies supported or budgeted by the Ministry of Culture, that have expended funds on cultural activities that have been deemed by the Minister to involve one the following: incitement to racism, denial of the existence of Israel as a Jewish and democratic state, support of the armed struggle of an enemy or terrorist organization against the State of Israel, characterization of Israel’s Independence Day as a day of mourning, an act of vandalism or physical degradation violating the honor of the State flag or the State emblem.**

**The budgetary sanctions include reducing, or in some cases, completely withdrawing, funding given to the subsidized or budgeted body or. According to the new law, expected to be passed by the Knesset, the question of deciding whether one of the abovementioned actions has been carried out will be decided by a political body that is not a court; this body, therefore under no obligation to strictly respect any rights or to carefully consider the meaning of the actions or the intentions of the body or person in question. Given the ambiguous nature of the restricted actions and their limitations, they may serve as fertile ground for broad interpretation by a Minister who is a political actor and enable the injection of clear political content into these directives.** **This is in no way akin to professional bodies, such as the police, the state attorney and the courts, who are charged with enforcing the criminal law in relation to the provisions set forth in criminal law and authorized to decide when an illegal incident has taken place. The main complaint brought forth by the cultural institutions and other parties fighting to defend democracy in the State of Israel is that the State already has numerous tools in place that allow it to deal with sedition, including any attempt to undermine the existence of the State. In our view, it is not appropriate for political actors to wield this kind of authority in the sphere of culture and the arts. This sphere is specifically dedicated to activities whose main objective is to exercise the right to freedom of expression, freedom of creativity, the right to culture and other aspects essential to human dignity.**

**The response by the JFC directorate to the press stated the following: The JFC will continue to be a place where audiences can encounter artists without being limited by censorship of any kind. The Cinematheque will continue to serve as a stage for cinematic creations representing the broad spectrum of the political rainbow. It is our heartfelt hope that artists in Israel will continue to have the opportunity to be loyal to one thing and one thing only – their artistic vision.**

1. **Main missions for November 2018 - February 2019:**
   1. **Production and organization of key events at the Cinematheque: the Jewish cinema festival, the anthropological cinema festival, the French comedy festival, film cycle dedicated to the theme of “superstition” in collaboration with the Museum of Islam in Jerusalem, continuation of the Ingrid Bergman retrospective, the “Remembering Austria’s 1938” film program, the Aki-No for Japanese Cinema festival, the new season of courses for adults – the Concerto for Cinema and the Metropolitan Opera.**
   2. **Filing an appeal of the Ministry of Culture’s new criteria for support, and participation in the fight against the “Cultural Loyalty” law.**
   3. **Establishing funding agreements for the digital archive project in 2019 with the Heritage Division, the Ministry of Finance, Mif’al HaPa’is and the Bracha Foundation. An exploration of various ways to regularize ongoing extensive support of the digital archive will begin in 2021.**
   4. **Contacting service providers and beginning work on a website that, in the future, will provide online access to the JFC’s film archive.**
   5. **Setting up infrastructure and fundraising for the 2019 Jerusalem Film Festival.**
2. **Programming Highlights at the Jerusalem Cinematheque May-September 2018:**

**Reframing Reality**: An international film festival challenging the concept of physical and mental disability with a selection of international films, workshops, VR, and more.

**Eurovision 2018**: Live special screening together with KAN channel of the Eurovision contest with drag-shows and live TV-broadcast from the cinematheque



**(February-December) Ingmar Bergman** (starting in February and taking place through 2018): An unprecedented retrospective with over 30 films commemorating 100 years to the birth of the legendary filmmaker.

**(on going collaboration) Israel at 70 from the Perspective of the Arab World**: A special monthly program in collaboration with the Forum for Regional Thinking re-examining the region’s popular preconceptions, accompanied by films and lectures.

"**The heart is a lonely singer**"- a tribute to Mizrahi music (middle-eastern music). A special exhibition, films and performances on the popular, yet often scorned, music genre.

**Exhibition on Screen**: Working with top international museums and galleries, **Exhibition on Screen** features films which offer a cinematic immersion into the world’s most beloved works of art. Selected artist for the month of June: Michelangelo. Coming soon: David Hockney, Monet, Rembrandt.

**OSSIM SHALOM – Social Workers for Peace and Social Welfare** (taking place through 2018):

A monthly event highlighting the struggle for peace in the region and worldwide. April's event: “When Voices Meet” – film screening and conversation with director Sharon Katz, a well-known peace activist in South Africa

**Cinema Summer School** – The cinematheque opened its gates for the first time to hold summer-camp/school for children. Over 30 children came for three weeks to study the basics of the film industry for both sides – the viewer and the film-maker.

**Czechoslovak Film Week -** Oscar directors and movies, famous, scandalous even prohibited by totalitarian communist regime, all present at the largest film event yet to celebrate 100 years since the establishment of Czechoslovakia (Czech and Slovak films) .

**Argentinian Film Week –** this program present a small selection with an emphasis on the various forces in Argentina cinema today.

**Agatha Christie:** A Tribute – a special program to celebrate the work of the greatest mystery writer of all times, as presented in cinema

**Anination –** colorful celebration of international and local animation. AniNation will showcase a rich and varied program of new films, award winning short films, workshops for children and teens, guests from around the world, master classes for adults, gaming animation, VR, and talks.

**Programmers exchange France-Israel**: a special program initiated and managed by the Jerusalem cinematheque involving 8 cinematheques – 4 local and 4 in France – creating a cultural exchange of program and programmers. In October, 4 cinematheque programmers (and two directors) cane to Israel to "take-over": our program and choose a special presentation of French films to show to our audience, with a short opening before each screening (in November tour programmers will travel to France for the second part)

**Opening of the adult-courses**: 6 courses from all angels of cinema offered to the audience this year, including a new course "psychology and cinema" and the successful course "cinema around the world" dedicated this year to India

1. **Israel Film Archive – Digitization Project Updates**
2. The Israel Film Archive signed a legal document with Herzliya Studios regarding their collections deposited in the Archive: hundreds of hours of newsreels and rare heritage collections. The Cinematheque will carry out the digitization of the materials and, in exchange, will be able to put them online free of charge to the general audience on the Archive’s new digital Web Site. This agreement constitutes an important precedent which will enable us to obtain rights from other Israeli rights-holders with greater ease.
3. Over the past year, following the establishment of the Digital Archive, over 700 hours of film materials have been scanned in high-quality formats and in accordance with the world’s highest standards. The Digital Film Lab started to digitize Beta tapes collections in-house.
4. Tens of original negatives of Israeli cinema titles which had been kept for years in European labs - were returned to the Archive.
5. Technological infrastructure and media management systems – strategic program was completed. It will constitute the “technological nervous system” of the comprehensive digitization project, and will facilitate the technological management of the preservation and access of media files. The program is built by a senior staff of experts in the fields of computing and technology.
6. New website designing is in progress - the new Archive website will contain hundreds of hours of audiovisual heritage collections (since 1896) and will offer to the public: online exhibitions about Israeli cinema, interactive map, social media engagement and research tools to the Archive catalog.
7. Staff members from the Archive participated in 4 international conferences & professional workshops specializing in audiovisual digitization, preservation and access. In addition, the Archive hosted the Association of Israeli Archivists' annual conference "70 years of audiovisual documentation of the Israeli state".
8. **Current Operational Data for May – September 2018** (including JFF)

* Number of public screenings: **866**
* Number of tickets sold (including subscribers): **104,038**
* Number of tickets sold in 2017: **82,865**
* Number of purchases of monthly pass subscriptions: **907**
* Number of purchases of monthly pass subscriptions in 2017: **858**
* Number of purchases of special programs: **659**
* Number of purchases of special programs in 2017: **673**
* Additional self-revenues – hall rentals, private events, office rentals: