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JACOB BURNS FILM CENTER THEATER ANNOUNCES SCHEDULE FOR WESTCHESTER JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL 2010

32 films, including a comedy spotlight, speaker events, and receptions

Pleasantville NY – February 16, 2010 – The ninth annual Westchester Jewish Film Festival at the Jacob Burns Film Center (JBFC) in Pleasantville will be held from April 8 through 29. The complete schedule of films, speakers, special events, and receptions can be viewed on the JBFC website at <http://www.burnsfilmcenter.org/films/film-series/detail/19631>.

For the eighth consecutive year, the festival is sponsored by the American Jewish Committee (AJC) Westchester with assistance from the Consulate General of Israel in New York, and in association with *The Jewish Week*. Support is provided by Cuddy and Feder, LLP; Ganer, Grossbach and Ganer, LLC Certified Public Accountants; and the Westchester Jewish Conference.



Photo: *Ahead of Time*

This year's festival, in addition to showcasing narrative and documentary films from around the world, includes a series of films on April 11 in commemoration of Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day), as well as a spotlight on Jewish comedy.

A few highlights of the festival are the opening night film, *Ahead of Time*, on April 8 with foreign correspondent, photojournalist, author, and humanitarian, Ruth Gruber who will be interviewed by Ann Curry, News Anchor/Correspondent for the *Today Show* and *Dateline*; *Rafting to Bombay* on April 13 with speakers Nissim Reuben, Director of Indian-Jewish American Relations and Dr. Maina Chawla Singh, an author and American University Clendenen Scholar-in-Residence and Associate Professor, University of Delhi; and *Against the Tide* on April 15 with David Harris, Executive Director of AJC, and Gary Rosenblatt, editor/publisher of *The Jewish Week*.

Programming for the film festival was selected by Steve Apkon, founder and executive director of the JBFC, Brian Ackerman, Programming Director, and Karen Sloe Goodman, Programming Associate. The film selection process starts almost a year before the festival is programmed and over a hundred films are viewed. The Jewish comedy segment of the festival was programmed by Mark Harris, a writer for *Entertainment Weekly* and author of *Pictures at a Revolution*, which was named one of the *New York Times* 100 Notable Books of 2008.

The Jacob Burns Film Center (JBFC) is a nonprofit cultural arts organization dedicated to presenting the best of independent, documentary, and world cinema; promoting 21st century literacy, and making film a vibrant part of the community. Located on a 47,500 sq. foot, three-building campus in the center of Pleasantville, the JBFC is just 30 miles outside of New York City. Since the opening in 2001, over 1,000,000 people have seen over 3,000 films from more than 40 countries. The campus includes the 27,000 sq. foot Media Arts Lab, the JBFC's state-of-the-art education center, a creative and educational community for storytellers in the digital age, offering one-time workshops, intensive courses, and weekend programs for children and adults of all ages. To learn more about the Jacob Burns Film Center and Media Arts Lab, visit www.burnsfilmcenter.org.

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