

# **The Tenth Annual MSU Israeli Film Festival**

**Hosted by the MSU Jewish Studies Program**  
**Sunday and Monday, March 22–23, 2015**  
**Wells Hall B-122**

***All movies are free and open to the public***

## **Sunday, March 22**

**2:30–3:45 pm**

### ***The Garden of Eden* (2012)**

Director: **Ran Tal**

Runtime: 73 minutes. Hebrew, with English subtitles.



The documentary *The Garden of Eden* is the story of Sakhne springs, one of the most popular national parks in Israel. The film documents the park's transformations over the course of a year while telling the poignant stories of its denizens. Among them: Yaacov, who has been on his own ever since his wife left years ago; Athir, a Palestinian who plans to move to Canada because life in Israel does not enable him to reach his full potential; Yael, who was forced to wed at the age of 13 and suffered years of physical and mental abuse; Itzhak, who has yet to recover from his brother's death in war. Director Ran Tal, who deconstructed kibbutz communal childrearing in *Children of the Sun*, here profiles a cross-section of Israeli society in a film imbued with humor, beauty, pain, and compassion. Winner of Best Documentary at the 2012 Jerusalem Film Festival.

**Discussion to be led by Dr. Ronen Steinberg.**

**4:00 pm–5:45 pm**

### ***Bethlehem* (2013)**

Director: **Yuval Adler**

Runtime: 99 minutes. Hebrew and Arabic, with English subtitles.



*Bethlehem* is the story of the bond between Razi, an Israeli *Shin Bet* (secret service) officer, and his Palestinian informant, Sanfur, the younger brother of a Palestinian militant. Razi recruited Sanfur when he was fifteen years old, and developed a very close, almost paternal relationship to Sanfur. Now 17, Sanfur lives a double life as he navigates between Razi's demands and loyalty to his brother. When the Shin Bet discovers how deeply involved Sanfur is in his brother's activities, Razi is faced with an impossible dilemma. Co-written by Yuval Adler and Ali Waked, an Arab journalist who spent years in the West Bank, *Bethlehem* gives an unparalleled, authentic portrait of the complex reality behind the news. Israel's nominee for Best Foreign Film at the 2013 Academy Awards.

**Discussion to be led by Dr. Yael Aronoff.**

**6:00–7:00 pm**

### **Dinner Break**

**Meals available for purchase onsite.**

**Catered by Woody's Oasis Mediterranean Deli**

**Prices: \$7 meal, 50¢ drink**



Sunday, March 22 (continued)

7:00–8:45 pm

## ***Farewell Party*** (2014)

Directors: **Sharon Maymon** and **Tal Granit**

Runtime: 90 minutes. Hebrew, with English subtitles.



A compassionate, humor-softened handling of a difficult issue that all must someday confront. A group of friends at a Jerusalem retirement home construct a machine for self-euthanasia in order to help a terminally ill pal. *The Farewell Party*, a poignant, provocative dramedy from Israeli directors Sharon Maymon and Tal Granit, boasts a dream cast of septuagenarian talent. With a finely honed visual sense and superbly ironic comic timing and dialogue, the movie pits the ethics of assisted suicide against the right to die with dignity. Winner of many Israeli and world film festival prizes in 2014.

**Discussion to be led by Dr. Steven Weiland.**

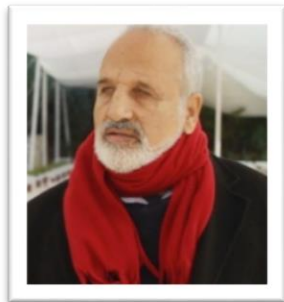
Monday, March 23

7:00–8:30 pm

## ***Shattered Rhymes*** (2014)

Director: **Sami Shalom Chetrit**

67 minutes. Hebrew and Arabic, with English subtitles.



This documentary film is a portrait of the blind Israeli poet Erez Bitton, who as a young child in 1948 was forced to emigrate from Morocco with his family. *Shattered Rhymes* tells the collective story of Moroccan Jews in Israel through Bitton's groundbreaking poetry and his life's milestones over the past 65 years. Bitton's personal story includes the life-altering tragic event and journey since the moment he lost his eyesight at the age of 11. His blindness has afforded him a unique window on to Israel's society, culture, and politics. *Shattered Rhymes* is a celebration of beautiful cinematography, Moroccan music, and exciting poetry. **The screening will feature an introduction and Q & A session with director Sami Shalom Chetrit, renowned Moroccan-born Israeli poet, author, and film maker.**

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***IFF 2015 Festival Coordinator: Marc Bernstein***

***IFF 2015 Film Committee: Ariana Mentzel and Ronen Steinberg***

We would like to thank our co-sponsors for their generous support:

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