

# THE SERLING INSTITUTE PRESENTS: 17<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL MSU

**Sunday March 19**

RCAH Theater, C20 Snyder-Phillips Hall, 362 Bogue St.

1:00 pm Intro to *One More Story*, with special guest **Omer Barak** author of novel upon which film was based

1:30 pm Screening of *One More Story*

3:00 pm Discussion, **Omer Barak**

3:30 pm Intro to *Queen Shoshana*

3:45 pm Screening of *Queen Shoshana*

5:45 pm a discussion with **Dr. Yael Katzir**

**6:00-7:00 pm Dinner** (complementary Woody's dinner served outside if weather permits)

**7:00-8:30 pm Live Performance by the Yemen Blues Quartet**

**Tuesday, March 21**

STEM Building Room 1202, 642 Red Cedar Rd.

10:00 am Welcome and Intro to *Give it Back!*

10:15 am Screening of *Give it Back!*

10:30 am a discussion with director **Ruchama Ehrenhalt**

Wells Hall Room B117, 619 Red Cedar Rd.

12:25 pm Intro to *Science is a Beacon* led by the award winning director, **Yael Kazir**

12:40 pm Screening of *Science is a Beacon*

1:30 pm a discussion with director **Yael Katzir**

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email at [radtkech@msu.edu](mailto:radtkech@msu.edu)



# ISRAELI FILM FESTIVAL

**Sunday, March 19, 1:00 pm: *One More Story* (2021)**

RCAH Theater, C20 Snyder-Phillips Hall, 362 Bogue St.

**Director: Guri Alfi**  
**Romance/Comedy**

**Followed by a discussion with writer Omer Barak**

Israel. Language: Hebrew (English subtitles)

An ambitious young journalist, Yarden, is put to the test when her boss (who also happens to be her lover) assigns her to do a story about blind dating in hopes of chasing ratings. She convinces her best friend to go out on a daily date for a month, each evening with a different woman, until he finds the right one. Even cynical young millennials believe in true love, right? Yarden's not so sure. *One More Story* is the directorial debut from Israel's beloved comedian and TV personality, Guri Alfi, and was based on Omer Barak's bestseller, *Wedding Pressure*, which received the highest price ever paid for movie rights in Israel. With a great score, the film is a fun-filled ride as we share the journey of Yarden's complicated dating history while waiting to discover if true love is to be found. Romantic comedy. Israeli style!

**Omer Barak** is an Israeli writer, scriptwriter and journalist. He has written for Israeli magazines such as *Globes*, *7 days*, and *Blazer*. His debut book, *Wedding Pressure*, was a number one bestseller in 2017, and broke Israeli selling records. In 2021, along with Alfi Guri, Barak adapted *Wedding Pressure* into the film *One More Story*. Barak's second book, *Everybody Smile*, just came out in December 2022 and hit the number one bestselling list within six hours!



**Sunday, March 19, 3:30 pm: *Queen Shoshana* (2021)**

RCAH Theater, C20 Snyder-Phillips Hall, 362 Bogue St.

**Directors: Morris Ben-Mayor and Kobi Farag**  
**Documentary**

**Followed by a discussion with award winning Director Dr. Yael Katzir**

Israel. Language: Hebrew (English subtitles)

Shoshana Damari was born in 1923 in Yemen to a Jewish family, the youngest in a family of five siblings. In 1925, after a grueling trek on foot, the Damaris reached to port of Aden where she took a ship to Palestine and moved to her childhood home in Rishon Lezion. Throughout her life, Shoshana Damari was surrounded by fans. The first Israeli diva, cloaked in spectacular embroidered gowns, donning an abundance of jewels, she graced local and international stages and stirred millions with her husky and beguiling voice. She was the most successful export of Israel to the outside world. In the years she lived in the United States, she was a friend of Danny Kaye, Nat King Cole, Nina Simon and Harry Belafonte who also recorded one of her songs. Yet behind the "bigger than life" image there was a woman about whom we know little. She didn't like to be interviewed and never volunteered details about her private life, her opinions or her thoughts.

In this film we will attempt to depict the other Shoshana. Letters and diaries, rare archive material from her estate and interviews with her most inner circle, will shed light on the fascinating story of the undisputed "Queen of Hebrew Music," a queen who in her twilight years was forgotten and left without a kingdom.



# ISRAELI FILM FESTIVAL

## Sunday, March 19, 7:00 pm: Live Performance by the Yemen Blues Quartet

RCAH Theater, C20 Snyder-Phillips Hall, 362 Bogue St.

The Yemen Blues Quartet has been the focus of group leader **Ravid Kahalani's** passion for the last year. The band includes founding members **Rony Iwryn** and **Shanir Blumenkranz**, and includes the internationally acclaimed drummer **Dan Mayo**. The band just finished a very successful November EU tour, with full houses of dancing fans. This quartet blends the spirit of Arabic, Hebrew & French with a heavy sound and grooves that invite a joyful, transcendent experience.



“It doesn't matter where you come from, your language is my language.”



## Tuesday, March 21, 10:00 am: *Give it Back!* (2019)

STEM Building Room 1202, 642 Red Cedar Rd.



**Director: Ruchama Ehrenhalt**  
Short Film, Drama

**Followed by a discussion with director Ruchama Ehrenhalt**

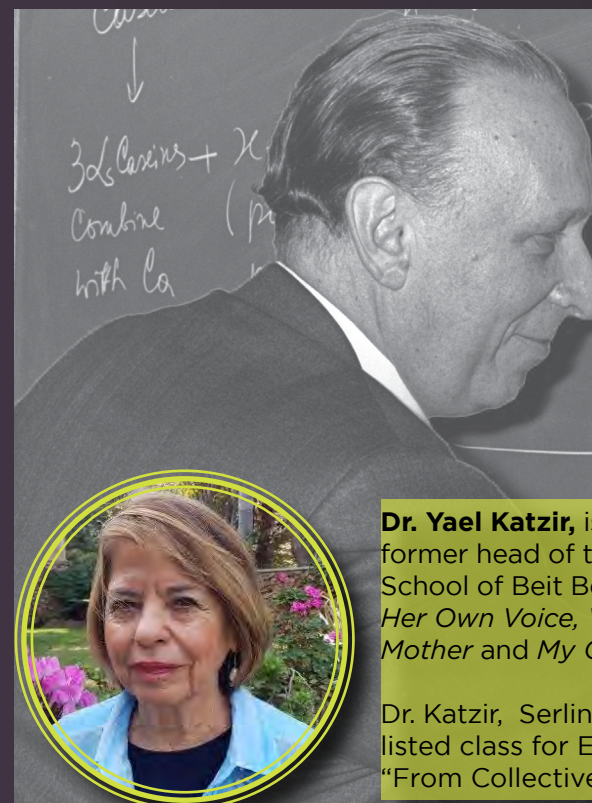
Israel. Language: Hebrew (English subtitles)  
Olivia is a 12 year old immigrant from New York. She is trying to find her place in the new world she just landed in, Israeli society. Instantly she connects with Alem, an Ethiopian Israeli boy who sits next to her in class. It doesn't take long for her to realize that their friendship is social suicide. This is a story about alienation, friendship and home.

Official selection - Chicago International Children's Film Festival.

**Ruchama Ehrenhalt** is a graduate of Ma'aleh School of Film and Television in Jerusalem. She also has a B. Ed. from Herzog College of Education, majoring in Literature and Communications. Originally from Long Island, Ruchama moved to Israel when she was 4 years old and grew up in Bet Shemesh, Israel. She is currently a resident of Jerusalem, where she volunteers at the Jerusalem African Community Center in their human rights department working with asylum seekers from Eritrea and Sudan. Ruchama is currently working at The Feuerstein Institute as the Resource Development Coordinator and getting her masters in Human Rights Practice from the University of Arizona.

## Tuesday, March 21, 12:25 pm: *Science is a Beacon* (2022)

Wells Hall Room B117, 619 Red Cedar Rd.



**Director Dr. Yael Katzir**  
Documentary

**Followed by a broadcasted discussion with award winning director and professor Yael Katzir**

Israel. Language: Hebrew (English subtitles)  
The story of the late Aharon Katzir, a pioneer in the study of the electrochemistry of biopolymers. He received the Israel Prize in 1961 and was president of the Israel Academy of Arts and Sciences, 1962-1968.

He was killed by a Japanese terrorist at Lod (Ben-Gurion) airport in 1972.

**Dr. Yael Katzir**, is an accomplished and award-winning Israeli documentary filmmaker, former head of the History Department and lecturer at the Film Department in the Art School of Beit Berl Academic College. Her films include *Company Jasmine*, *Praying In Her Own Voice*, *Violins in Wartime*, *Shores of Light*, *The Albanian Code*, *Shiva for My Mother* and *My Grandma Had a Gun*.

Dr. Katzir, Serling Visiting Israeli Scholar in 2012, 2017, and 2021, taught a cross-listed class for English, James Madison College, and the Film Studies Program: "From Collective Identity to Personal Diversity: Israeli Documentary Filmmaking".