

# ÑØRÐIC CINEMA SHOWCASE

- "I will give you your emigration license  
And I will ask the Lord to bless you and yours  
on the journey to faraway lands.  
May you never regret your bold choice."
- "...even the lice are emigrating."

**From the Emigrants,  
A film by Jan Troell  
(Sweden, 1971)**

The second installment of the Nordic Cinema Showcase, a joint project of the Herzliya Cinematheque and the embassies of Denmark, Norway, Finland and Sweden, focuses on the moral complexities related to immigration and its global relevance. The festival's program includes 19 films from 71 years of creativity, which present a recurring theme of characters' restless movement in an area delineated by borders that seemingly should not be crossed.

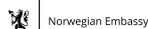
Similar to last year's inaugural program, this year we also decided to screen new movies alongside some old films from various periods. The lineup includes the Nordic entries for nomination for the 2020 Academy Award for Best International Feature Film (formerly known as the Best Foreign Language Film). Through the program, we will try to understand the characteristics of Nordic cinema and we will reflect on trends and future attitudes.

In addition, we will try to restore the focus on Jan Troell, one of Sweden's most prominent directors, by screening his two epic films, the Emigrants and the New Land. We will acquaint ourselves with People in the Summer Night, a Finnish cinematic gem inspired by the works of Jean Renoir; we will be entertained and unnerved by Danish Lars von Trier's boundary crossing in his television series, the Kingdom, a funny and spooky roller coaster that forever changed the status of the European television industry; and we will put special emphasis on contemporary, exciting Norwegian cinema. Finally, we leave room for family films and some modest works in their local premiers.

Yours,  
The Herzliya Cinematheque Staff and the  
Nordic Embassies

**November 2019  
Cinematheques**

**Herzliya , Tel Aviv, Holon,  
Jerusalem, Sderot**



## Opening Film

## Contemporary Cinema

### Master Cheng Mestari Cheng

(Finland/China, 2019),  
Drama  
(116 mins., Finnish and  
English; Hebrew and English  
subtitles)



After the death of his wife, Cheng, a 45-year-old chef originally from China, takes his only son on a journey to a remote village in Finland in search of an old friend. The two fall in love with the place, its beauty, the fresh air and the friendly locals who are always willing to taste his cooking. Despite the hardships of setting roots in the new place, Cheng and his son find true love and a possibility for a better future. As anywhere else in the world, even in a small village in Finland immigration is a painful subject, and the new life of father and son is put to a test.

Mika Kaurismäki, the brother of Aki Kaurismäki (the Other Side of Hope, the Match Factory Girl), is a veteran filmmaker with a gentle soul. His cinematic journey is very different from that of his brother, and is characterized by simplicity, love for fellow humans and compassion.

**Director: Mika Kaurismäki**

Cast: Vesa-Matti Loiri, Kari Väänänen, Anna-Maija Tuokko

## Nordic Classics

### People in the Summer Night

**Ihmiset suviyössä**  
(Finland, 1948), Drama  
(66 mins., Finnish; Hebrew  
subtitles)



A beautiful restoration of a Finnish cinematic classic from 1948, which offers the viewers a pensive and peaceful glimpse at the lives of the residents of a Finnish village one summer's night in the middle of the last century: A boy and girl fall in love, a pregnant woman is waiting for the midwife to arrive, a handsome young man full of potential accidentally kills his friend. For two days, the villagers discuss how to cope with the complex situation in which they find themselves. A beautiful film in the spirit of Jean Renoir's works, based on the bestselling novel of Frans Eemil Sillanpää (winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature, 1939).

**Director: Frans Eemil Sillanpää**

Cast: Eila Pehkonen, Martti Katajisto, Emma Väänänen  
Winner of the 1949 Jussi Awards for best acting categories and for Best Screenplay

## Children's Film

### Moominvalley

(Finland/Britain, 2019),  
Animation  
(60 mins., English; Hebrew  
subtitles)



## Contemporary Cinema

### Stupid Young Heart

**Hölmö nuori sydän**  
(Finland, 2019), Drama  
(102 mins., Finnish;  
Hebrew subtitles)



This is the story of the first love between Lenni, a too thin irresponsible boy, and Kiira, a popular girl, maybe too popular. The initial excitement is soon replaced by the stress related to dealing with an unwanted pregnancy. Nine months is too long a period to cope with the pressure, and Lenni finds release in the friendship with Janne, a member of a neo-fascist gang. Lonely Kiira tries to find the boy with whom she fell in love before he turned into a hateful grownup in the body of a young boy. Stupid Young Heart, a film by Selma Vilhunen, is a harsh work with a message that is very relevant to our times.

**Director: Selma Vilhunen**

Cast: Pihla Viitala, Ville Haapasalo, Tuomas Tulikorpi  
Selected to represent Finland in contending for the nomination for the 2020 Academy Awards for Best International Feature Film (formerly known as the Best Foreign Language Film)

## Contemporary Cinema

### Void

**Tyhjiö**  
(Finland, 2018), Dramady  
(97 mins., Finnish and  
English; Hebrew subtitles)



The relationship between a screenwriter struggling with writer's block and a successful actress dreaming of a Hollywood career is in trouble. Just as her international career is on the rise, he gets an idea for a novel and feels the need for seclusion. The space between them is filled with harsh emotions. Void is an independent film, which received no assistance from the Finnish film foundations, and yet it took over the Jussi Awards ceremony by storm. It appears to be designed as a comedy, yet its crudeness replaces sentimentality in an exact depiction of the couple's relationship. Despite the beautiful black and white cinematography (with some splashes of color) the film is characterized by crafty humor, which sweetens the bitterness to some degree.

**Director: Aleksi Salmenperä**

Cast: Laura Birn, Tommi Korpela, Hannu-Pekka Björkman  
Winner of the 2019 Jussi Awards for Best Film, Best Direction and Best Editing

The Moomins are a family that lives in a cold Nordic valley. Alongside Moomintroll, Moominpappa, Moominmamma, Snork and Snorkmaiden, live timid Sniff, Little My, Mr. Hemulen, free spirited Snufkin, the frightening Groke and others. Over the years the Moomins have taught many families values such as welcoming the other, individualism and love of nature. We are pleased to present two episodes of the new series, which continues the spiritual and esthetic legacy in all seriousness.

**Directors: Steve Box , Darren Robbie**

Voices: Matt Berry, Warwick Davis, Taron Egerton

## Contemporary Cinema

### Out Stealing Horses

#### Ut og stjele hester

(Sweden, 2019), Drama  
(123 mins., Norwegian;  
Hebrew and English  
subtitles)



The year is 1999, and 67-year-old Trond is coping with the loneliness he faces living in a Norwegian village in the midst of winter. One evening, he meets a neighbor called Lars and realizes that he knew him when he was young. Trond is flooded by memories that take him back to 1948, when he was 15 and spent a summer by a river in the countryside with his father, whom he admired. A gripping, elegant, melancholic drama about love, remorse and baggage from the past. The film, by Hans Petter Moland, Norway's most prominent director, boasts a moving performance by Stellan Skarsgård and exquisite scenic shots. Based on the bestseller novel by Per Petterson.

#### Director: Hans Petter Moland

Cast: Stellan Skarsgård, Bjørn Floberg, Tobias Santelmann  
Selected to represent Norway in contending for the nomination for the 2020 Academy Awards for Best International Feature Film (formerly known as the Best Foreign Language Film)

## Contemporary Cinema

### The 12th Man

#### Den 12. Mann

(Norway, 2018), Historical/  
Thriller  
(135 mins., Norwegian,  
English, German and Saami;  
Hebrew subtitles)



This is the true story of member of the Norwegian resistance, Jan Baalsrud, who was sent with a small troop of soldiers on a sabotage mission to destroy a German war ship in the territorial waters of Norway during World War II. After the mission fails, Baalsrud escapes to neutral Sweden, but an astute Nazi officer is on his tail, like a blood-thirsty hunting dog. The film's power lies in the breathtaking action scenes, and in particular the depiction of the local inhabitants at the places Baalsrud reaches throughout his escape: a fisherman who carries him on his shoulders, an old woman who hides him in a hay stack, and a Saami man who ties him to a sled (one of the most brilliant scenes in the film). The 12th Man is a fast pace history lesson about the time when it seemed that the Nazis would make the Northern Lights disappear.

#### Director: Harald Zwart

Cast: Thomas Gullestad, Jonathan Rhys Meyers, Marie Blokhus

## Contemporary Cinema

### Blind Spot

#### Blindsone

(Norway, 2018), Drama  
(98 mins., Norwegian;  
Hebrew and English  
subtitles)



A girl returns home, says goodbye to her mother and younger brother, and does something that turns the world upside down for her family and anyone they meet. A compelling, affective and breathtaking debut film, taken in one single shot. "One of the most powerful cinematic experiences, daringly executed and superbly controlled." (Screen Magazine)

#### Director: Tuva Novotny

Cast: Teodor Barsnes-Simonsen, Anders Baasmo Christiansen

## Contemporary Cinema

### Going West

#### Rett Vest

(Norway, 2017), Dramady  
(80 mins., Norwegian; Hebrew  
subtitles)



After his wife's death, Georg renews his relationship with his estranged son, Kasper. He decides to go on a trip following recent memories of the woman who was loved by both men. Kasper understands that after many years of liberal thinking and living freely (yet not worry-free), Georg will not back down: He will go on the journey dressed in his wife's clothes, because that is how he likes to dress. "Troubles are like a urinary tract infection," one of the wise characters in the film tells Kasper. "They will come, but the right treatment will make them go away." And it appears that this journey is just what the doctor ordered, even if the medicine is sometimes bitter. Going West is a serious road movie that honors its eccentric characters, while being funny enough to make the time spent with them enjoyable and edifying. Naturally, the Nordic scenery makes its contribution too, and the result is an American style road movie with European wisdom.

#### Director: Henrik Martin Dahlsbakken

Cast: Iben Akerlie, Ingar Helge Gimle

Winner of the Norwegian 2018 Amanda Award for Best Actor in a Supporting Role

## Contemporary Cinema

### Beware of Children

#### Barn

(Norway/Sweden, 2019),  
Drama  
(157 mins., Norwegian;  
Hebrew & English subtitles)



During recess period at school, 13-year-old Lykke, the daughter of a member of the Labour Party, injures her classmate Jamie, the son of a politician from a right-wing party. Jamie dies in hospital, and the teachers and parents have a hard time coping with the tragedy, especially in light of the intricate network of relationships, loyalties and secrets. One of the most remarkable Norwegian films of 2019, *Beware of Children* articulately depicts the complexity of human relations in general, and those between parents and children, in the modern world. An engaging drama spiced with subtle humor.

**Director:** Dag Johan Haugerud

Cast: Henriette Steenstrup, Jan Gunnar Røise, Thorbjørn Harr

## Children's Film

### In the Forest of Huckybucky

#### Dyrene i Hakkebakkeskogen

(Norway, 2016), Animation/  
Musical (75 mins., Norwegian;  
Hebrew subtitles)



In the magical forest of Huckybucky lives Morten the mouse, who is a great guitar player, together with his friends Claus and Mr. Hare. The three would like to play and have fun, if it were not for their naughty, hungry enemies, Marvin the fox and Horace the hedgehog, who want more than some biscuits and nuts. When Morten's beloved grandmother almost becomes food for foxes, he decides to set new rules in the forest, so that all the animals can live a long life. *In the Forest of Huckybucky* is a charming film characterized by the typical Nordic sincerity, which does not try to hide the facts of life. The film is based on stories and songs written by Thorbjørn Egner, and was created with stop motion animation using rubber figures that will win over the hearts of the young viewers as well as adults.

**Director:** Rasmus A. Sivertsen

Voices: Nils Jørgen Kaalstad, Stig Henrik Hoff, Frank Kjosås

## Contemporary Cinema

### Queen of Hearts Dronningen

(Denmark, 2019), Drama  
(127 mins., Danish  
and Swedish; Hebrew  
subtitles)



Anne is a successful lawyer who lives in a large house with her loving family. When Gustav, her husband's teenage son from a previous relationship, moves in with them, it brings about a surprising development in the life of the family. Glances between the two lead to a passionate love affair, and there is no turning back. A beautiful, riveting drama that has won many awards, including the Audience Award at the Sundance Film Festival and at the Göteborg Film Festival.

**Director: May el-Toukhy**

Cast: Trine Dyrholm, Gustav Lindh, Magnus Krepper  
The Danish entry for the 2020 Academy Awards for Best International Feature Film (formerly known as the Best Foreign Language Film)

## Modern Classic

### Pusher

(Denmark, 1996), Thriller  
(110 mins., Danish; Hebrew  
subtitles)



Frank is a small drug dealer who gets in trouble with the "big boys" in a botched deal, and he has to pay them back within 48 hours. The melancholic world of the protagonists is presented through unproductive wandering to the run-down apartments of customers in debt and to dingy clubs, crushing the cinematic image of the contemporary drug dealer, who lives a fast and exciting life (a cinematic myth created by the hit movie *Trainspotting*). *Pusher* is not only a dark dramatic film, but also an intense, meticulous thriller with a superbly mastered choreography of violence and chases, in stairwells and streets, filmed with unbridled camera action.

**Director: Nicolas Winding Refn**

Cast: Kim Bodnia, Mads Mikkelsen, Laura Drasbæk  
Winner of the 1997 Bodil Award for Best Supporting Actor

## TV Series

### The Kingdom – Season 1

#### Riget - 1

(Denmark, 1994), TV/Horror  
Series  
(270 mins., Danish and  
Swedish; Hebrew subtitles)



Mrs. Drusse, a lovely hypochondriacal old lady, routinely admits herself into a hospital known as the Kingdom, where her son works as an orderly, and he can give her extra attention and lunch portions. As a spiritual person, Mrs. Drusse soon becomes familiar with the ghosts that haunt the place, and mostly, the tortured soul of a lonely young girl who died in mysterious circumstances. At the same time, a young pretty doctor finds herself having to deal with an unwanted pregnancy which causes odd side effects; the new manager turns out to be a rude Swede who hates Danes; and a young man and woman with Down Syndrome who have the gift of prophecy, are washing the dishes in the basement of the kitchen. This is, of course, only the beginning.

*The Kingdom* is a strange work by Lars von Trier. It is often credited with the change in the artistic stature of television series (along with *Twin Peaks*, David Lynch's iconic series). The genius Danish director weaved plenty of hilarious sub-plots around the main story. The series' uncanny and anarchistic atmosphere is enhanced by innovative filmography and editing, which break every convention in the world of film and television, and keep the viewers in a state of constant alertness.

**Directors: Morten Arnfred, Lars von Trier**

Cast: Ernst-Hugo Järegård, Kirsten Rolffes, Ghita Nørby  
Winner of the 1995 Karlovy Vary Awards for Best Actor and Best Director;  
Winner of the 1995 Bodil Awards for Best Film, Best Actor, Best Actress, Best Supporting Actress and Best Screenwriter.

## Children's Film

### Circleen, Coco and the Wild Rhinoceros

#### Cirkeline, Coco og det vilde næsehorn

(Denmark, 2018), Animation  
(62 mins., Danish; Hebrew  
subtitles)



Young Circleen has been looking for a best friend for so long. To her surprise she finds one in Coco, a sweet, dark-skinned girl. Ingolf, the charming young boy, also finds a friend. He creates a true friendship with a large rhinoceros who is tired of being the smallest rhinoceros in the herd. Together, they embark on an entertaining journey, through which they learn that life is not always sweet like a slice of cake, but that cake is most usually very sweet.

**Director: Jannik Hastrup**

Voices: Magdalena Nonsgjogv Trantou, Yasmin Cekic, Efe Vinter Alis

## Documentary

### Taikon

(Sweden, 2015),  
Documentary  
(90 mins., Swedish; Hebrew  
subtitles)



A documentary about the life of Katarina Taikon, a Romani writer and social activist, who was dubbed the Martin Luther King of Sweden. When the Romani people in Sweden (who originated from the Rajasthan, Haryana and Punjab regions of India) were fighting for equal rights, Taikon became the face of the struggle thanks to her uncompromising stance and the books she published.

**Directors:** Lawen Mohtadi, Gellert Tamas

## Contemporary Cinema

### Ted – Show Me Love

**Ted – För kärlekens skull**  
(Sweden, 2018), Musical  
Drama/Biography  
(120 mins., Swedish; Hebrew  
subtitles)



A cinematic musical biography that presents the life of Ted, who rose to fame in the early 1970s together with ABBA, and his life story won the hearts of the Swedish people. Ted's music redefined Swedish pop music, and the lyrics to his songs, written by his brother Kenneth, were full of life, love, pain and hope. The symbiotic relationship between the two brothers lies at the center of the film, which presents both lofty and peculiar moments between them.

**Director:** Hannes Holm

Cast: Hanna Alström, Adam Pålsson, Jonas Karlsson



**Jan Troell** is a renowned director in the European film industry. As a young man, he worked as an elementary school teacher and educator, but he was drawn to creating short films. It didn't take long for him to fall in love with the seventh art, and his very first feature films already won him awards. From the start of his cinematic career, Troell insisted on controlling the three key elements of the creative process: screenwriting, directing and cinematography. As a result, his films are characterized by his distinctive style, rhythm, and esthetic, using natural light as much as possible and drawing attention to daily physical activities. His social sensibilities, which were honed during his years as a teacher, are evident in all of his works. The program of the second Nordic Cinema Showcase includes his monumental two-film epic, *The Emigrants* and *The New Land*.

## Nordic Classic

### The Emigrants

#### Utvandrarna

(Sweden, 1971), Period  
Drama  
(151 mins., Swedish and  
English; Hebrew subtitles)



Sweden, mid-19th century. Kristina and Karl Oskar are trying to eke out a living in a small village in the south of the country. The region has been suffering a drought for several years, and the people are suffering from hunger. Along with some of their friends, they decide to try their luck in the Land of Opportunity. They sell all their belongings, buy tickets, and embark on the dangerous voyage in a sail boat. The days going by and the threat of death prepare them for their new life, if only they make it to the end of their journey.

**Director:** Jan Troell

Cast: Max von Sydow, Liv Ullmann, Eddie Axberg  
Winner of the 1973 Golden Globe Award for Best Foreign-Language Foreign Film and Best Actress in a Motion Picture – Drama

## Nordic Classic

### The New Land

#### Nybyggarna

(Sweden, 1972), Period  
Drama  
(202 mins., Swedish and  
English; Hebrew subtitles)



The film continues to follow the lives of the "emigrants," the protagonists of Jan Troell's film. Kristina, Karl Oskar and their friends arrive in Minnesota after their arduous journey. They purchase lands and try to rebuild their lives. The land is fertile, yet seems to refuse to produce crops. The community slowly falls apart, some of the members go to California to look for gold and some of the young men join the army, but Karl Oskar is not fit for service and he stays behind. He and Kristina continue to fight for their shared life, and slowly their struggle begins to bear fruit.

**Director:** Jan Troell

Cast: Max von Sydow, Liv Ullmann, Eddie Axberg

