

KLEZNORTH 2019 FILM PROGRAMME

FRIDAY 8.30pm

MENASHE (80 mins) Yiddish with subtitles

Dir. Joshua Z Weinstein US 2017

Deep in the heart of New York's ultra-orthodox Hasidic Jewish community, Menashe, a kind, hapless grocery store clerk struggles to make ends meet and responsibly parent his young son, Rieven, following his wife Leah's death. Tradition prohibits Menashe from raising his son alone, so Rieven's strict uncle adopts him, leaving Menashe heartbroken.

A touching film about a father trying to make ends meet while wrestling with the orthodoxy of his community and caring for his son. A rare glimpse into the Hasidic Jews of Brooklyn and very rare example of a contemporary Yiddish language feature film.



SATURDAY 5.45pm

FYVUSH FINKEL – his life in Yiddish theatre, film and showbiz (50 mins) US 2013

Fyvush Finkel was a very successful entertainer, starting out in Yiddish theatre in America and appearing in many films, Yiddish radio and Broadway shows in a long career spanning 80 years.

In this interview in a noisy restaurant with Scott Feinberg, Fyvush (then in his 90s) talks about his working life and its ups and downs. This film is one of the few surviving records of someone who worked in Yiddish theatre and radio.



SATURDAY 9.15pm

YIDL MIT'N FIDL (90 mins) Yiddish with subtitles

Dir. Joseph Green, Poland/US 1936

Starring Molly Picon, this musical comedy was the most successful Yiddish film of all time and was shot on location in Kazimierz Dolny, Poland, with local inhabitants as extras.

It was groundbreaking as the first Yiddish film with high production values and 'real cinema' instead of filmed stage plays.

'Itke' (Molly Picon) and her father go on the road as itinerant klezmerim and she dresses as a boy to avoid being molested. Confusion and romance follow.



