Kleznorth 2023 Film Programme

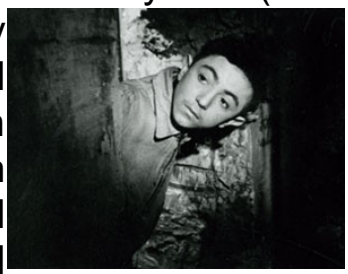
FRIDAY 9.15pm

THE YIDDISH CINEMA (60 mins) Dir. Rich Pontius USA 1991

Nourished by Yiddish literature and theatre, Yiddish film production in Eastern Europe and the US flourished between the two world wars. This documentary uses interviews, archival photos and film clips to embrace the subject, assigning equal importance to music, tradition, comedy and tragedy. The film traces the decline of the cinema and language, following the Holocaust, Stalin's suppression of Jewish culture and the New World's demands for assimilation.

SATURDAY 5.30pm

UNSERE KINDER (70 mins) Yiddish with subtitles Dir. Natan Gross and Shaul Goskind Poland 1948 This semi-documentary film (and Poland's last Yiddish feature) features the comedy duo Shimon Dzigan and Israel Shumacher who had recently returned from the Soviet Union, and Jewish children who had survived the Holocaust. Directed on location at Helenowek Colony, an orphanage and school near Lodz, this film includes Dzigan and Shumacher's virtuoso turn as all the characters in Sholem Aleichem's Kasrilevke Brent (Kasrilevke is Burning), and an exchange of roles where they become the children's audience. Reversals continue during the performers' visit to the children's residence, as the children teach adults about the healing possibilities of music, dance and storytelling. Our Children was produced under the scrutiny of the Polish Communist Party and subsequently was not allowed to be shown in Poland. The discovery of an original nitrate print in 1979 by Polish journalist Bernard Turner enabled the restoration of this important film.



SATURDAY 9pm

MORE THAN A ROLL WITH A HOLE (40 min) Dir. Paul Stewart UK 2023

The Bagel is the world's favourite roll, with billions, if not trillions being enjoyed by millions of people round the world every year. This story has religious persecution overcome by endeavour, it's got travel round the world and beyond, it's got spirituality and secularism, but most of all it's got Bagels, or should that be Beigels? You'll have to see the film to find out.