

For Immediate Release...

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ATLANTA JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL CELEBRATES 20 YEARS OF FILM IN 2020

With 1000 Films Screened + Over 385,500 Total Attendees, the Annual Festival Is One of the Largest Globally

ATLANTA: 2020 marks the 20th anniversary of the Atlanta Jewish Film Festival (AJFF), which was founded in 2000 and has since expanded to become the city's largest film festival and among the largest festivals of its kind worldwide. The inaugural edition of the festival welcomed some 1,900+ filmgoers and the organization has been entertaining audiences and fostering community dialogue ever since. The milestone anniversary edition of AJFF takes place **Monday, February 10 through Thursday, February 27, 2020**, featuring a diverse collection of exceptional international and independent cinema that continues a proud tradition of entertaining audiences and fostering community dialogue.

"It is a particularly exciting time for AJFF as we approach our 20th anniversary. While we reflect on the tremendous growth of two decades, we look forward to celebrating the occasion with another stellar lineup of cinematic stories otherwise unavailable to Atlanta audiences," says Kenny Blank, Executive Director of AJFF. "Equally important, this is a special opportunity for AJFF to say 'thank you' to the many supporters, volunteers, and audiences who have been with us on this journey and share in the festival's success."

Founded in 2000 by the Atlanta Regional Office of American Jewish Committee (AJC), AJFF established itself as a 501(c)3 non-profit and independent arts organization in 2014. The festival has since introduced year-round programming, including AJFF Selects, AJFF On Campus, Cinebash, the Icon Award and more. Serving some 40,000+ moviegoers yearly, AJFF uses the power of film to entertain engage, educate, and foster dialogue and understanding amongst audiences of all faiths, backgrounds and ages.

To date, the annual festival has welcomed a combined total of 385,500+ film enthusiasts, with notable guests including Judd Hirsch, Jennifer Westfeldt, Rosanna Arquette, Josh Lucas, Theodore Bikel, Peter Riegert, Jasmine Guy, Gilbert Gottfried, and many more. Among the nearly 1000 films screened, many are Oscar nominees and national cinema award winners. In its 20 year history, AJFF has proudly presented 35 world premieres, as well as international features from over 60 countries, including Israel, Algeria, Cambodia, Tunisia, and Ghana.

The 2020 AJFF opens at the Cobb Energy Performing Arts Centre before expanding to multiple metro area venues across 18 days. In addition to popular venues UA Tara Cinemas, Regal Perimeter Point and the Sandy Springs Performing Arts Center, AJFF will add two new intown locations in 2020 at the Landmark Theatres Midtown Art Cinema and the Plaza Theatre. The Woodruff Arts Center once again hosts Young Professionals Night of the festival.

The full film lineup and official schedule will be announced on **Friday**, **January 10**, and tickets will go on sale via <u>AJFF.org</u> beginning **Monday**, **January 27**.

For more information about the annual festival and other AJFF year-round programs, visit <u>AJFF.org</u>, and stay connected via social media on <u>Twitter</u>, <u>Facebook</u>, and <u>Instagram</u>.

About Atlanta Jewish Film Festival: AJFF's mission is to entertain and engage diverse audiences with film through a Jewish lens while simultaneously challenging conventional perspectives on culture and history, life in Israel, and the work of Jewish artists—particularly where these stories intersect with other communities. AJFF features year-round programs, including several tent pole events such as its annual Film Festival, AJFF Selects, AJFF On Campus, Cinebash, and the Icon Award for Contributions to the Cinematic Arts. In addition to its core programs, AJFF continues to work alongside its many partner organizations to support the greater Atlanta community while raising the bar for film festivals worldwide. Founded by the Atlanta Regional Office of American Jewish Committee (AJC) in 2000, since 2014, AJFF has operated as an independent non-profit arts organization that continues an active partnership with its founding agency, American Jewish Committee. **Photos from AJFF events can be pulled here.**

Media Contacts: Katie Cline + Brittany Westveer | 360 Media, Inc. – <u>katie@360media.net</u> or 404-577-8686 **Direct AJFF Contact:** Leah Sitkoff – <u>leah@ajff.org</u> or 646-544-6365