

JEWISH BOXERS AND HOLLYWOOD

The Jewish Film Festival is currently on tour throughout the country and may be coming to a city near you, writes Aconia van Hildon.

November saw all eyes focused on Jewish films as the Jewish Film Festival got underway. Founded with the aim of showing Jewish culture through the glass of the camera lens, the festival is in its seventh year. The highlight was the five days from November 5th to November 9th at the Bioscoop Het Ketelhuis in Amsterdam, where

15 movies, almost all premieres, were screened over 33 shows. If heading to Amsterdam to see some great films didn't take your fancy, then you may just be in luck, as the festival's top films are on tour through five cities until January 18, 2009. The tour visits Groningen, Den Haag, Arnhem, Maastricht and Appledorn, bringing Jewish

films to those all throughout the Netherlands.

Theme

Paying tribute to the important role that Jewish boxers played in the first half of the 20th century, the theme for the 2008 Jewish Film Festival was boxers and Hollywood. From 1901 to 1939 alone, there were 28 Jewish world boxing champions. The festival committee was also pleased to work again in partnership with their oldest and greatest colleagues, the San Francisco Jewish Film Festival, which allowed them to present the films *Orthodox Stance*, *Max Baer's Last Right Hook* and the silent movie *His People*, which was produced in 1925. Especially for the film festival, *His People* was shown with a special live jazz accompaniment. The festival also decided to put a special highlight on the Israeli film industry by playing films from past and present, such as *The Policeman*, produced in 1971, right on through to the more modern film, *Noodle*. For many of the films shown at the Jewish Film Festival, this was the first time they were seen in the Netherlands, making it not only a good day out but also a unique opportunity to see a number of films which

have previously gone unseen in the Netherlands.

To see a full list of films that were available during the 2008 Jewish Film Festival and when the film tour will be in a city near you, visit www.joodsfilmfestival.nl.

NOT TO BE MISSED

One of the top films of the recent Jewish Film Festival event was *The Clown and the Führer*, highlighted for its excellent acting and gripping story. Clown Charlie Rivel and his sidekick Witzi have been summoned to perform for Hitler's birthday and must rehearse an act with Gestapo agent Krauss at a theatre in Berlin. To Rivel's discomfort, Witzi views performing as a way of taking a stand against the Nazis, even with the knowledge they could be sent to Auschwitz for their acts.

The Policeman is a comedy about a policeman beloved by all, from the members of his team to the criminals they are after. Azulai is also completely ineffective at law enforcement. His contract is up for renewal and worried that someone a bit more effective may replace him, a gang of robbers arrange for Azulai to catch them red-handed.

