**La Crosse Jewish Film Festival 2021 5781**

**The Awakening of Motti Wolkenbruch – Netflix and YouTube**

**Wednesday, January 6 7:00 PM**

**1h 34min**  **2018**

***The Awakening of Motti Wolkenbruch*** ([German](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/German_language): ***Wolkenbruchs wunderliche Reise in die Arme einer Schickse***, lit. 'Wolkenbruch's Wondrous Journey Into the Arms of a Shiksa') is a 2018 Swiss [comedy film](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Comedy_film) directed by [Michael Steiner](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Michael_Steiner_(director)&action=edit&redlink=1).

Young Jewish man bucks orthodox traditions (and mother’s meddling) by shaving, shopping outside the faithful, and considering a shiksa for a wife.

Wikipedia link: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Awakening_of_Motti_Wolkenbruch>

Trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nl7KRMpcuEM&list=PLCbYPPJM4v4tnJsSNpTRBKqvCVuYL1-g0>

**The Red Sea Diving Resort – Netflix**

**Wednesday, January 13 7:00 PM**

**2h 9min.** **2019**

**Time magazine article:** [**https://time.com/5638572/the-red-sea-diving-resort-true-story/**](https://time.com/5638572/the-red-sea-diving-resort-true-story/)

Undercover agents open up a fake hotel to real tourists as a cover to help smuggle thousands of Ethiopian refugees to safety.

**Trailer:** [**https://youtu.be/80WflPMzAcw**](https://youtu.be/80WflPMzAcw)

**Heading Home: The Tale of Team Israel – YouTube**

**Wednesday, January 20 7:00 PM**

**86 minutes** **2018**

###### Directed by Seth Kramer, Daniel A. Miller, and Jeremy Newberger

A stirring story of sports, patriotism and personal growth, Heading Home charts the underdog journey of Israel's national baseball team competing for the first time in the World Baseball Classic. After years of defeat, Team Israel is finally ranked among the world's best in 2017, eligible to compete in the prestigious international tournament. Their line-up included several Jewish American Major League players―Ike Davis, Josh Zeid and ex-Braves catcher Ryan Lavarnway―most with a tenuous relationship to Judaism, let alone having ever set foot in Israel. Their odyssey takes them from Tel Aviv and Jerusalem where they are greeted as heroes, to Seoul where they must debunk their has-been, wannabe reputations. With their Mensch on the Bench mascot by their side, the team laughs, cries, and does much soul-searching, discovering the pride of representing Israel on the world stage.

Review: <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/09/05/movies/heading-home-the-tale-of-team-israel-review.html>

Trailer: <https://youtu.be/nUitYwP9VyI>

**There are Jews Here – documentary**

**Wednesday, January 27 7:00 PM**

**1 hr. 32 mins. 2018**

**THERE ARE JEWS HERE** follows the untold stories of four once thriving American Jewish communities that are now barely holding on. Struggling with aging congregants and dwindling interest, families are moving to larger cities with more robust congregations.

In Latrobe, Pennsylvania, a synagogue manages to say open long enough for the Bat Mitzvah of their oldest member's granddaughter. In Butte, Montana, board member Nancy Oyer tries to do everything in her power to keep things together while struggling with her personal health. In Laredo, Texas, a young interfaith couple is torn between reviving their dying community or leaving it behind. Yet, Dothan, Alabama, hopes to buck the trend by offering financial incentives to those willing to make a new life in their city. An affecting portrait of people who are doing their part to keep the Jewish spirit alive, THERE ARE JEWS HERE celebrates religious diversity in smalltown America.

# **Saul and Ruby’s Holocaust Survivor Band**

**Wednesday, February 3   7:00 PM**

**1 hr. 20 mins.  – 2020**

Watch Trailer: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vTfJp2Ts9X8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5VgtCCYaj1c)

In a South Florida retirement community, 91-year-old Saul Dreier starts a klezmer band with fellow concentration camp survivor Ruby Sosnowicz, hoping to use music to celebrate life and memorialize those who perished in the Holocaust.

**Menashe – Netflix**

**Wednesday, February 10 7:00 PM**

**81 minutes – 2017**

Deep in the heart of New York's notoriously secretive Hasidic Jewish community, Menashe, a good-hearted but somewhat hapless grocery store clerk, struggles against tradition to keep custody of his only son after his wife passes away.

Review: [**https://www.rottentomatoes.com/m/menashe**](https://www.rottentomatoes.com/m/menashe)

**Trailer:** [**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=83UoZcdX\_\_Y**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=83UoZcdX__Y)

**The Meyerowitz Stories** – Netflix

Wednesday, February 17 7:00 PM

 **112 mins. - 2017**

Grudges and rivalries abound as three adult siblings converge in New York to contend with their prickly artist father – and his fading legacy

Trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MYzFieit8dI>

.Adam Sandler, Ben Stiller, Dustin Hoffman

**Abe** – Prime

Wednesday, February 24 7:00 PM

**1 hr. 25 mins. - 2020**

**Abe** is a 12-year-old boy from Brooklyn who cooks to unite his half Israeli and half Palestinian family, but everything goes wrong.

Trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jp-9t0CutNg>