



## LARC Resources about Jewish Culture in Latin America

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## FILMS

### ARGENTINA

#### ***The Yidishe Gauchos***

This film tells a little known story of Jews escaping Eastern Europe to the Argentine pampas. At the end of the 19th century, millions of Jews fled from the Russian pogroms, some settling in Argentina with the help of the Jewish Colonization Association. Most settled into a life of ranching and farming. The National Center for Jewish film. ©1989. English. 28 minutes.

#### ***Siete días en el Once (Seven Days in Once)***

Rich in local flavor and colorful characters, this documentary portrays daily life in the Once neighborhood of Buenos Aires where Jewish immigrants have settled since the early twentieth century. Today, they constitute one of the largest and most important Jewish communities in Latin America. The film provides a folk history of the neighborhood, its residents, and its institutions. Although changing demographics, Argentina's economic crisis, and physical transformation have all altered Once and its community, a defining moment in its history may have been the deadly bombing of the community's Jewish mutual aid society in 1994. The film and its lively subjects present everyday aspects of adaptation and preservation in their attempts to maintain community integrity and traditional culture. Directed by Daniel Burman, Argentina, ©2001. English subtitles. 42 minutes.

### BRAZIL

#### ***The Year my Parents went on Vacation***

The Year is 1970. The World Cup is on; Pele and Team Brazil are international heroes. Meanwhile, back in Brazil, 12 year-old Mauro is thrust into a maelstrom of political and personal upheaval when his left-wing militant parents are forced to go underground. He is left in the care of his Jewish grandfather's neighbor in Sao Paulo. Suddenly finding himself an exile in his own country, Mauro is forced to create an ersatz family from the religiously diverse and colorful population of his new neighbourhood. Directed by Cao Hamburger. ©2006. Portuguese with English subtitles. 110 minutes.

### ***Os Sermoes***

This innovative film portrays the life and works of Father Antonio Vieira (1608-1697), a Portuguese priest who spent most of his life between the court on Dom Joao IV in Lisbon and northeastern Brazil. The film portrays his conflicts with Catholic Inquisitors in Portugal who censured him for advocating the return of exiled Jews in Holland so that they might help to finance colonial projects overseas. Directed by Julio Bressane. Starring Othon Bastos and Caetano Veloso. ©1989. Portuguese with English subtitles. 40 minutes.

## **CHILE**

### ***Godofredo - 20% Albert Schweitzer***

Godofredo is a wise and cantankerous old man who dedicated his life to protecting animals and nature. His property, on the outskirts of Santiago de Chile, is a haven for numerous cats, 24 dogs, a tortoise, four parrots, eleven pigeons and a host of other animals. For decades now, Chile's Dr. Doolittle has given abandoned and injured animals a name and a home. The now 90-year-old Godofredo Stutzin has reached a sobering conclusion. The struggle to protect our environment can never be more than a losing battle - humanity, it seems, is simply too stupid for its own good. The retired lawyer and winner of Germany's prestigious Federal Cross of Merit is highly skeptical of the future prospects of our natural world. But this was not always the case. Born to a Jewish father, Stutzin fled Nazi-Germany in 1935 and went on to study law in Chile. In the late 1960s he founded Chile's first society for animal welfare and conservation. The many awards decorating his office testify to his tenacity and dedication. In his 50-year-long struggle Godofredo was driven by his belief that only a life lived for and in communion with nature was a life worth living. Directed and produced by Gaby Lingke. Filmed in Chile. Submitted in the environmental justice category to the 2009 Latin American Environmental Media Festival. ©2007. Spanish, German, and English with English subtitles. 47 minutes.

## **CUBA**

### ***Havana Nagila: The Jews in Cuba***

This film traces the history and presence of the Jewish community in Cuba. It explores the impact of the 1959 Revolution and what it has been like living through these three and a half decades under Castro. Schnitzki & Stone film. ©1995. English. 56 minutes.

## **MEXICO**

### ***A Kiss to this Land***

Exploring the personal and human aspects of Jewish immigration to Mexico, A KISS TO THIS LAND presents fragments of memories and oral histories together with vivid depiction of the historical period of the 1920s and 1930s. Those who participate in this documentary present a picture of diverse Jewish background, people who were propelled to leave their homes in search of a better way of life. Along the way there were many frustrations and obstacles until they were able not only to adapt but to learn to love this new land as their own. Directed by Daniel Goldberg. ©1995. Spanish with English subtitles. 93 minutes.

### ***Novia que te Vea (Like a Bride)***

In early 1960s Mexico, two young Jewish girls--Oshinica (Claudette Maille) and Refke (Maya Mishalska)--experience the life-changing events of their teen years against the turbulent backdrop of the decade. As they fall in love, attend Zionist day camps, and flirt with radical politics, they find themselves constantly caught between the traditions of their heritage and the ever-changing face of Mexican society. LIKE A BRIDE was the winner of five Ariel Awards, including Best Supporting Actress and Best Screenplay. ©1993. Spanish and Hebrew with English subtitles. 115 minutes.

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## OTHER

### ***Expulsion and Memory***

Shot on location in Spain, Portugal, Israel, Canada and the United States, this documentary traces the descendants of Spanish Jews who were forced to either flee or convert to Catholicism after Queen Isabella's edict of 1492. Many of these Jews had to practice their religion in secret, passing their furtively-recalled customs down through the generations. Exploring the history and culture of these 'conversos', the film celebrates an enduring spiritual legacy which has survived centuries of persecution. Through extensive interviews with the children of secret believers, the film captures the modern resurrection of something ethereal: the ghost of a people. Beautifully photographed and edited, the film features a lyrical Spanish/Sephardic soundtrack by some of the world's leading artists including Placido Domingo. Directed by Simcha Jacobovici and Roger Pyke. ©2006. English. 60 minutes.