



NEW RELEASE

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**SEVEN SHORT FILMS FOR TEENS AND ADULTS OFFERED FREE TO TEENS AND ADULTS THROUGH @AKIVA**

***JEWISH EDUCATORS OFFERED FREE WEBINARS AND CURRICULUM***

Cleveland, Ohio — @akiva, the teen engagement department of the [Jewish Education Center of Cleveland](#), will offer seven short films dealing with Jewish identity and Israel free to the community, starting February, 2022. Though specifically chosen for teens, organizers encourage adults to watch as well.

@akiva's director, Amnon Ophir, smiles when he talks about the films. "Each film is about one hour and virtual, so it is a safe and entertaining way to share bits and pieces of Israeli culture, pose questions about Jewish identity, and highlight the emerging Israeli movie industry."

The program offers live virtual programming, including watch-alongs, live chats with Israelis, and cooking lessons. Jewish educators will also be offered access to one or two films to share with their students and lesson plans to accompany those films.

The program starts on Monday, January 24, 2022, with information sessions for educators on how to use the films with students. Then, the following Monday, two films will begin streaming, each available for one week. Two more films will start the week after.

The schedule, previews of the movies, and registration information can be found on <http://www.akivacleveland.org/israelinshorts/>.

Israel In Shorts is a program of @akiva and the Jewish Education Center of Cleveland

26500 Shaker Boulevard | Cleveland, Ohio 44122 | 216.367.1388 | [akivacleveland.org](http://akivacleveland.org)



@akiva is a beneficiary agency of the Jewish Federation of Cleveland and a partner agency of the Jewish Education Center of Cleveland





The films touch on issues facing Israeli teens that are entirely different than those American teens deal with. Ophir says, “American teens cannot understand their Israeli teen counterparts without experiencing their stories.”

For example, one film, *Ameer Got His Gun*, is about a Muslim Arab boy who lives in Israel and wishes to enlist in the army. He tries to thread the needle between being a proud Arab and protecting the country in which he lives

Another film, *A Mirror for the Sun*, is about Tamar Ariel, the first-ever Jewish Orthodox combat navigator who, after service, finds herself with friends in Nepal, hiking in an unexpected snowstorm. Yet a third film, *Masel Tov Cocktail*, is a fierce comic take on being a modern Jew in Germany.

Visit <http://www.akivacleveland.org/israelinshorts> to learn more.

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