

ENTERTAINMENT

MAY 22, 2014

TIFF SNEAK PEEK

'Unorthodox' on the 2014 roster

At 16, Anna Wexler had broken away from her Orthodox Jewish community in New Jersey, rejecting its religious doctrine and social restrictions, and severing ties to her family. This led to her running away from home, sleeping on the streets, and experimenting with sex and drugs with friends who had also left the Orthodox world.

However, after studying in Israel, her friends had a change of heart and returned to the fold.

Feeling betrayed, Anna launched a quest to understand their transformation by following three rebellious Jewish teenagers in their yearlong rite-of-passage journey from high school to Israel. Along the way, Anna was forced back to the roots of her own struggle to understand the meaning of faith and the essence of religion and identity.

That is the story of "Unorthodox," a documentary that premiered at the Boston Jewish Film Festival last November, and will be shown at the Teaneck International Film Festival, Nov. 7-9, (the screening will be Sunday afternoon; time and place to be announced).

The film was written and directed by Anna Wexler, a science and travel writer and documentary filmmaker who is currently pursuing her Ph.D. at MIT in the STS (Science, Technology, and Society) Program, where she is studying the social, ethical and legal implications of neuroscience advances.

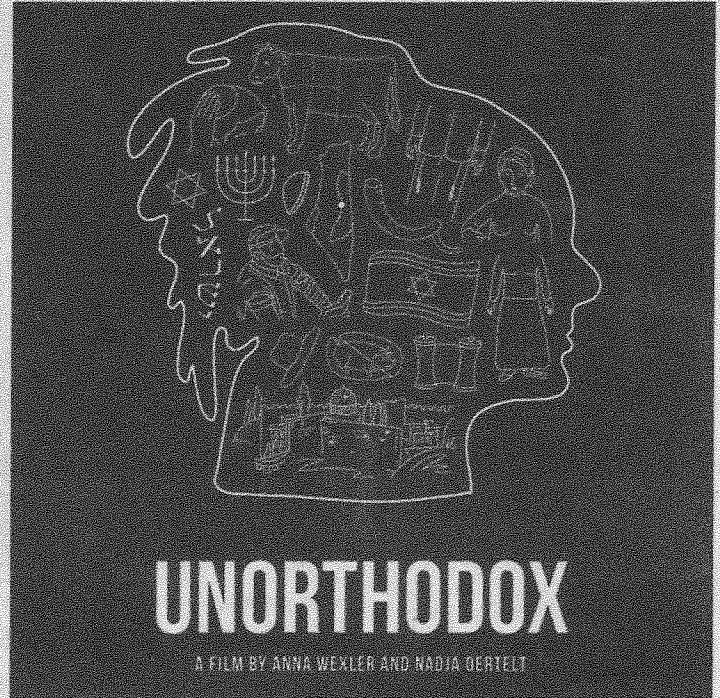


PHOTO COURTESY OF TEANECK INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

The 2014 Teaneck International Film Festival will include the documentary film "Unorthodox."

Co-director Nadja Oertelt, a scientist and filmmaker interested in the intersection of science and the Arts, is currently a HarvardX Fellow, producing and creating a multimedia, interactive, educational open-source documentary on topics within neuroscience.

Both women will attend the screening and will participate in a talkback that will include Tzipi, who grew up in Teaneck, and

was one of the friends who was followed as she rejected and then returned to Orthodoxy after spending a year in Israel.

The film, written and directed by two women, ties in with the focus of TIFF 2014 on women's issues. Check the TIFF website, teaneckfilmfestival.org, for updates about this and everything that will be included in the ninth annual film festival "with a social conscience".

ACTING CLASSES

Groups to offer classes for seniors

The Arts for Life Network of New Jersey and the Garage Theatre Group (GTG) are joining together to reach out to active older adults with a 3-week series of acting classes taught by Michael Bias, GTG's artistic/producing director.

resident Michael Bias, who co-founded the theater company 20 years ago, has directed/produced more than 100 plays and musicals. He has critiqued for the Bergen Teen Festival of the Arts and participates in arts-in-education programs throughout New

Jersey. Participants will learn the basics of acting through games, improvisation and short scenes. No memorization will be required.

According to Bias, students will be encouraged to "exercise their creative imagination, warm up their natural acting



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE PUFFIN CULTURAL FORUM

Chris Vasquez will celebrate the life and Carlos Gardel May 24.

CULTURAL FORUM

Chris Vasquez to celebrate the life and Carlos Gardel

at the Puffin Cultural Forum 7 p.m. as t Chris life and I Carlos eared on cene, his ularized from the ns to the

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highlight Gardel's death in narrator, necdotes ie artist's le songs. musical

on Double Bass. During the show, Vasquez is hoping to inspire tango aficionados and newcomers alike.

Vasquez has received worldwide recognition for his passionate interpretations of the tango. Over the years, Vasquez has performed in venues across the United States and in South America and was a guest soloist with the Long Island Symphony and The Americas Vocal Ensemble.

In addition, Vasquez was awarded the "Best Singer" prize at the International Tango Music Competition in New York and was a voice competition finalist at the Medellin International Tango Festival. Vasquez has also created two shows that combine tangos sung in Spanish with narration in English: "The Song of Tango: A Tribute to Carlos Gardel" and "To Live To Love To Tango!"