

Cinema

Filmhouse Cinema, 88 Lothian Road, Edinburgh EH3 9BZ

The Edinburgh Film Guild was founded in October 1930 as one of Britain's earliest film societies. Its first headquarters opened three months later and included a small library which was to form the basis for its extensive present-day archives. This archive, which is currently in the process of being catalogued, includes print materials dating back to the early 1910s and promotional film materials from as early as the late 1900s. During the 1940s and 1950s, the Guild was the largest film society in the world - its membership was only limited to 2,500 members because of the size of its partner cinema - and visitors and other contacts either brought or sent it countless rare and unique items of film culture. It currently houses approximately 50,000 film stills from dozens of countries, many rare film posters, hundreds of books (mainly relating to film criticism and amateur film production) and numerous publications from a span of over one hundred years. Since 1947, these have been housed in three locations named Film House/Filmhouse, the first of which was the first cinema in the world purpose-built exclusively for the use of a film society; the present Filmhouse was opened in 1978 and is now an independent cinema which houses the Guild as well as being the headquarters for the Edinburgh International Film Festival.

The Guild's most lasting single contribution to film culture was its creation of the First International Festival of Documentary Films in 1947. This, the first international film festival in Britain and the first festival anywhere in the world dedicated to documentary filmmaking, eventually became the present-day Edinburgh International Film Festival, now approaching its 67th edition and the longest continually-running film festival in the world. Its main archives are now housed at the National Library of Scotland and are also currently in the process of being catalogued. These run to nearly 1,500 folders of materials dating back to the early 1940s (before the Festival's first edition) through to the present day. These mainly include correspondence with the Festival, as well as promotional materials for films included in or submitted to the Festival, and internal documents discussing the decisions and logistics of the Festival and its organisation, particularly since it became an independent body separate from the Film Guild in the late 1950s.

In addition to all of the external and operation documents mentioned are the various publications of the Film Guild, Film Festival and, since its inauguration in 1968 (as the Edinburgh Film Theatre), Filmhouse, all of which detail the long history of the films which these organisations have brought to Edinburgh from all over the, including many for which it is believed no other materials may exist in English.

Below is a comprehensive guide to the material that can be connected to Jewish film makers or subject matters found in the Filmhouse between 1947 (First International Festival of Films) and 1956. The table is designed to give an in-depth look at what might be found in other decades if the film/director being researched was featured at one of

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Edinburgh's film festivals. Once the collection is catalogued, a comprehensive list may be accessible for the entirety of the festival's history.

Also worth mentioning is the printed *Sight and Sound* archive that the Filmhouse has on the premises (selectively from 1932 to present). Another publication worth mentioning is the *Monthly Film Bulletin*, which was published by *Sight and Sound* and ran from 1934 to 1991, when it was absorbed into the revamped *Sight and Sound*. The Filmhouse has the entirety of the latter publication and can be accessed along with other material by contacting either Marc David Jacobs (marc.jacobs@cmi-scotland.co.uk), who heads the co-ordination and cataloguing of the archival holdings both on the Filmhouse premises, and the National Library of Scotland. A thorough guide for what can be accessed at the NLS site is forthcoming.

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| Repository | Date | Title | Scope |
|---|------|--|---|
| Filmhouse | 1947 | <p>Documents of the First International Festival of Films:</p> <p><i>House in the Desert</i> (Ben Oyserman 1947 Palestine)</p> <p><i>Paisà</i> (Rabbi plays a large part in one of the sequences and also acted by a Roberto Rossellini 1946 Italy)</p> <p><i>The Festival of Youth</i> (Sergei Yutkevich, Iosif Polesky and Irina Venzher 1946 Yugoslavia)</p> <p><i>Chasing the Blues</i> (Reginald Le Borg 1947 GB)</p> <p><i>Dover</i> (British Ministry for Information 1943)</p> | <p>The documents relating to this film festival include information for films which were either directed/photographed by or included significant cinematographic representation of Jewish characters.</p> <p>Includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adjudication forms for films' entrance and inclusion to the festival • Program information • Media cuttings (especially for <i>Paisà</i>) • Film stills for <i>Paisà</i>, • Article in Documentary 47 and the Monthly Film Bulletin Entry 30th Sept 1947 for <i>The Festival of Youth</i> |
| Central Library/ National Library of Scotland | 1947 | <i>The Festival of Youth</i> | <p>Because this film is such a difficult one to find sources on, it is worth mentioning that media reporting on its screening at the First International Festival of Films can be found in microfilm collection of the <i>Edinburgh News</i> 1st Sept 1947 and <i>The Scotsman</i> 11th August</p> |

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|------------|---------------------|--|--|
| | | | 1947 and an advert for its screening in <i>The Scotsman</i> 30 th Aug 1947, article about its Cannes Film Festival can be found in <i>The Scotsman</i> 8 th Oct 1946 |
| Filmhouse | 1948 | Opening of the Second International Festival of Documentary Films | Documents relating to opening of the Festival by Sir Michael Balcon |
| Filmhouse | 1948 | <i>Steps of the Ballet</i> (Mui Mathieson 1948 GB) - Assistant Director Leon Clore | Documents relating to the screening |
| Filmhouse | 1949 21 Aug- 11 Sep | <i>Adamah/Tomorrow Will be a Wonderful Day</i> | Documents and media articles for the Third International Festival for Documentary Film screening of <i>Adamah</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Adjudication forms for the film's acceptance• Programme notes for a gala screening at the Third International Festival of Documentary Films of <i>Adamah</i>, an Israeli propaganda film made in 1948• Contains information on Ben Shemen Children's |

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|------------|------|--|--|
| | | | <p>Village in Israel and a brief overview of early immigration and settlement in Israel and the German founder of the village Dr Lehmann and the problems these early settlements encountered</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Article in <i>Documentary 49</i> (accompanying publication to the Documentary Film Festival but not exclusive to it) includes film stills on publication cover |
| Filmhouse | 1949 | <i>Adamah</i> in Documentary '49 | Article review of <i>Adamah</i> in the Documentary 49 (accompanying publication to the Documentary Film Festival but not exclusive to it) and stills from the film on the front cover of the magazine |
| Filmhouse | 1949 | <i>The Last Stage</i> at the Documentary Film Festival | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Adjudication forms• Festival Press Digest• Brochure information for the screening of <i>The Last Stage</i> (first feature film about the Holocaust to be made and first British |

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|------------|------|---|--|
| | | | <p>screening of a film about the Holocaust)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monseigneur News Theatre Program Program information for the <i>The Last Stage</i> • Press cuttings and BBC reporting transcripts about the film • |
| Filmhouse | 1950 | <p><i>The Sardinian Project</i> (Wolfgang Suschitzky 1948 GB)</p> <p><i>Adventure in Sardinia</i> (Wolfgang Suschitzky 1950 GB)</p> | Documents and Program info |
| Filmhouse | 1951 | <p><i>The Man in the White Suit</i> (Alexander Mackendrick 1951 GB) - produced by Sir Michael Balcon, opening gala screening</p> <p><i>My Brother and I</i> (Ben Oyserman 1951 Israel)</p> <p><i>Maccabiah</i></p> <p><i>Forward A Century</i> (J.B Napier Bell 1951 GB) - partly photographed by Walter Lassally</p> <p><i>From Plan Into Action</i> (Donald</p> | Documents and Program Info |

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|------------|-------|---|---|
| | | Alexander 1951 GB) - partly photographed by Walter Lassally and Wolfgang Suschitzky <i>No Resting Place</i> (Paul Rotha 1951 GB) | |
| Filmhouse | 1952 | <i>To Save One Life</i> <i>Eliezer</i> <i>Rebekah</i> | Adjudication forms stating their rejection from the Sixth Edinburgh Film Festival |
| Filmhouse | 1952 | <i>Cry, The Beloved Country</i> (Zoltan Korda 1951 GB) - winner of Selznick Silver Laurel Award <i>Three Installations</i> (Lindsay Anderson 1952 GB) - partly photographed by Walter Lassally | Adjudication Forms Documents relating to the screenings |
| Filmhouse | 1952- | Sixth Edinburgh Film Festival | Programme mentions the visit of Monja Danischewsky (Producer, writer at Ealing Studios of Jewish descent) and Emeric Pressburger (director, producer, writer of Jewish descent) |

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|------------|-------------|--|---|
| Filmhouse | 1952 and 53 | <i>To Save One Life</i> (1952 Israel) | Adjudication forms showing its twice rejection from the sixth and seventh International Edinburgh Film Festival |
| Filmhouse | 1953 | <p><i>The Elephant Will Never Forget</i> (John Krish 1953 GB)</p> <p><i>The Pleasure Garden</i> (James Broughton 1952 GB) - photography by Walter Lassally and inaugural Diploma of Merit recipient)</p> <p><i>Sunday by the Sea</i> (Anthony Simmons 1953 GB) - produced by Leon Clore</p> | <p>Seventh International Edinburgh Film Festival</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adjudication forms • Press Digest information • Stills for <i>The Elephant will Never Forget</i> and <i>Sunday by the Sea</i> • Programme information • Documents and press cuttings |
| Filmhouse | 1954 | <p><i>Tent City</i> (Dani Valin 1953 Israel)</p> <p><i>Bow Bells</i> (Anthony Simmons 1953 GB) - photographed by Walter Lassally</p> <p><i>East in the West</i> (Margaret S Thompson 1954 GB)</p> <p><i>Thursday's Children</i> (Lindsay Anderson 1954 GB) - photographed by Walter Lassally</p> <p><i>The Young Lovers</i> (Ida Lupino 1949 US) - starred David Kossoff</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adjudication forms • Programme information and documents • Stills for <i>Bow Bells</i> and <i>East in the West</i> |

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| Filmhouse | 1955 | <p><i>Hill 24 Doesn't Answer</i> (Thorold Dickenson 1955 Israel)</p> <p><i>The Bespoke Overcoat</i> (Jack Clayton 1955 GB) - awarded an Academy Award for Best Short Film in 1956</p> <p><i>The Last Act</i> (Georg Wilhelm Pabst 1955 Belgium)</p> <p><i>Doctor At Sea</i> (Ralph Thomas 1955 GB)</p> <p><i>One Day in Perfect Health</i> (John Krish 1950 GB) - photography by Walter Suschitzky</p> | <p>Ninth International Edinburgh Film Festival</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Adjudication Forms• Documents relating to all films• Stills for <i>Hill 24</i>, <i>The Bespoke Overcoat</i>, <i>The Last Act</i> - specifically publicity material, correspondences and publications relating to Selznick Golden Laurel Award• Includes media cuttings for all films - especially for <i>Hill 24</i> and <i>The Bespoke Overcoat</i> |
| Filmhouse | 1956 | <p><i>Oil in Pakistan</i> (Sydney Samuelson 1956 GB)</p> <p><i>Sunday in the Park</i> (John Schlesinger 1956 GB)</p> <p><i>The Sui Gas Pipeline</i> (William Pollard 1956 GB)</p> | <p>Documents and programme information relating to their screenings</p> <p>Stills for <i>Sunday in the Park</i></p> |