

Sabes Jewish Community Center
Jay and Rose Phillips Building
Barry Family Campus
4330 S. Cedar Lake Rd.
Minneapolis, MN 55416
952.381.3439
www.sabesjcc.org



February 18, 2009

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Minneapolis Jewish Film Festival opens the 2009 festival with *The Beetle*, an ode to the life-affirming connections of car enthusiasts

Minneapolis, Minn...The Sabes Foundation Minneapolis Jewish Film Festival Opening Night begins with a screening of *The Beetle* and includes an opening night party, Saturday, March 7 at 7:30 p.m. at the Sabes Jewish Community Center, 4330 S. Cedar Lake Road, Minneapolis, MN, 55416.

Yishai Orian, the director of the film and the owner of an old Volkswagen Beetle, is about to become a father. His mechanic says that the car will not last long, while his wife complains that the car is unsuitable for a baby. Attempting to keep his beloved car, Yishai goes on a journey that begins with interviewing the previous owners of the Beetle, continues to the Jordanian desert where he meets the Arab men who will help renovate his beloved car and ends with the birth of his child. Through the interviews of the previous owners, he learns about poignant moments of the yellow beetle with the red hood; a birth, a death; a slice of Israel's history.

The exciting, funny, sad and intimate memories of the Beetle's previous owners blend with the director's personal story. *The Beetle* is a heartwarming and hilarious story, an optimistic metaphor for Middle East reconciliation, and an ode to the life-affirming connections of car enthusiasts.

Lu Lippold, the Director of Funding Programs for IFP-MN will be there to welcome the film festival and speak about the importance of supporting local filmmakers and film festivals.

- # -

The Sabes Foundation Minneapolis Jewish Film Festival takes place March 5–15, 2009 and presents the best feature films, documentaries and shorts from around the world on themes of Jewish culture and identity. The film festival is an opportunity to heighten awareness of this diversity to audiences of all backgrounds. Through its eclectic programming of films in different languages, the festival strives to break down stereotypes and racial barriers. It hosts filmmakers from all over the globe, and presents panels, workshops, and a variety of programs as part of the festival's annual programming. For a full list of films and for more information, visit www.mplsjff.org.

Sabes JCC, Jay & Rose Phillips Building, Barry Family Campus, 4330 S. Cedar Lake Road, Minneapolis, MN 55416.

Contacts:

Sara Rubinett
Marketing Manager
Sabes Jewish Community Center
952-381-3453

Miryam Kabakov
Film Festival Director
Sabes Jewish Community Center
952-381-3472