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## Festival offers ranging perspectives of Jewish culture

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On Jan. 19, Mayor Kip Holden kicked off the Baton Rouge Jewish Film Festival at the Manship Theatre in the Shaw Center for the Arts. Mayor Holden, whose office doubled its monetary contribution to the festival this year, emphasized the importance of events like the film festival to promote community building and diversity in Baton Rouge. The festival offers our city a rare glimpse of a culture with which we generally have little interaction and exposure.

Harvey and Paula Hoffman, co-chairs of the festival, did a tremendous job organizing the culturally stimulating film festival. In addition to the films, guest speakers were scheduled to close each of the three nights of films providing the audience with additional information and opening the channels of dialogue by engaging in question and answer sessions

The festival's selection of films touched on a variety of topics although not a wide range of genres. There were four documentaries and one drama, which to some can emit the vibe of a college course more than a film festival. But nevertheless, the festival filled a void that has left Baton Rouge vacant of independent films since the Siegen Village Theater closed last year. If anything, the festival proves the craving for something other than standard Hollywood rubbish is alive and well in the Capital City. We can only hope it becomes an annual tradition.

### **The Rape of Europa**

**Directors:** Richard Berge, Nicole Newnham and Bonni Cohen

**Narrator:** Joan Allen

<http://www.rapeofeuropa.com/>

The festival began Thursday night with the documentary "The Rape of Europa," winner of the Best Documentary