

BR Jewish Film Festival

The second annual Baton Rouge Jewish Festival opens Jan. 17 with the premiere of "The Rape of Europe" at 7 p.m. in the Manship Theatre. This documentary details the Nazi's theft and the recovery of some of Europe's most treasured art.

The film is followed by a discussion led by LSU assistant professor of art Darius Spieth. The Jan. 17-20 festival continues with showings of "Blues by the Beach," "The Tribe," "A Jumpin' Night in the Garden of Eden" and "Varian's War."

Saturday night's double feature begins at 7 with "The Tribe," a Sundance Film Festival selection. This short film intermingles the histories of the Barbie doll and the Jewish people. Next up is "Blues by the Beach," Jack Baxter's study of Israeli nightlife at a trendy Tel Aviv bar to prove there more to Israel than terror.

Sunday's 2 p.m. matinee, "A Jumpin' Night in the Garden of Eden," is a documentary tracing efforts to revitalize the art of Klezmer music. It's followed by a performance by the New Orleans' Panorama Jazz Band.

The festival concludes with the screening of "Varian's War," a historical drama based on the true story of Varian Fry, an American who saved more than 2,000 people from the Nazis, including artists Marc Chagal, Franz Werfel, Alma Werfel Mahler and Heinrich Mann. The film stars William Hurt, Julia Ormond, Alan Arkin and Lynn Redgrave, and is followed by a talk by Kenneth Hoffman, educational director with the National World War II Museum in New Orleans.

Additionally, a special screening of the documentary "Secret Lives: Hidden Children & their Rescuers During WWII" for schools is Jan. 17 at BREC's Independence Park Theatre. Holocaust survivor Ann Levy of New Orleans shares her story of being a hidden child.

For tickets call the Manship box office at 344-0334 or visit the Web site www.manshiptheatre.org.

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FILM: 'Varian's War'



FILM: New Orleans' Panorama Jazz Band