

GEECT

GROUPEMENT EUROPEEN DES ECOLES DE  
CINEMA ET DE TELEVISION THE EUROPEAN  
GROUPING OF FILM AND TELEVISION SCHOOLS  
A REGIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CILECT

the Sam Spiegel  
film & television school, Jerusalem



## GEECT BEST KEPT SECRETS CONFERENCE VI

SCHOOL-ALUMNI RELATIONS:

# GOING THE EXTRA MILE

HOSTED BY THE SAM SPIEGEL FILM & TELEVISION SCHOOL, JERUSALEM, JULY 2015





Maria Marta Antin  
UCINE-Argentina  
mmantin@ucine.edu.ar



Tal Gadon  
BAAD-Israel  
talgadon@yahoo.com



Bert Beyens  
RITS/GEECT-Belgium  
bert.beyens@ehb.be



Zuzana  
Gindl-Tatarova  
VSMU-Slovakia  
zgindltatarova@gmail.com



Angel Blasco  
EAV-Spain  
ablasco@filmayer.es



Lubomir Halatchev  
NATFA-Bulgaria  
lubo.halatchev@gmail.com



Yaron Bloch  
TAU-Israel  
yaronb@tauex.tau.ac.il



Tinna Jone  
SADA-Sweden  
tinna.jone@stdh.se



Bartolomeo Corsini  
CSC-Italy  
bartolomeo.corsini@fondazi-  
onecsc.it



Lena Kempe  
SADA-Sweden  
lena.kempe@uniarts.se



Manuel Jose  
Damasio  
ULHT-Portugal  
mjdamasio@ulusofona.pt



Omri Levi  
MAALE-Israel  
omri@maale.co.il



Jerome Enrico  
ESEC-France  
jerome.enrico@esec.edu



Zhang Liangxue  
BFA-China  
wanghonghai@bfa.edu.cn



Sergei Erofeev  
GTR-Russia  
erofeef@yahoo.com



Otar Litanishvili  
TAFU-Georgia  
olitanishvili@yahoo.com



Andreas Friedrich  
FABW-Germany  
Andreas.Friedrich@filmaka-  
demie.de



Marcin Malatyński  
PWSFTViT-Poland  
mmalatynski@filmschool.  
lodz.pl

# SCHEDULE

---

## July 7, 2015

18:30 **Short Tour** Central Jerusalem

19:30 **Welcome Dinner** Lavan at the Cinematheque

## July 8, 2015

09:00 **Gathering** YMCA Lobby

09:30 **Tour** The Sam Spiegel Film School

10:00 **Greetings** Bert Beyenes (GEECT)

10:05 ***Sam Spiegel: The Last Tycoon***

10:15 **Session 1 - Going the Extra Mile** Renen Schorr (JSFS)

10:45 **Coffee Break**

11:15 **Session 2 - The Morning After** Shir Shoshani (JSFS),  
Renen Schorr, Tinna Jone (SADA), Andreas Friedrich (FABW)

12:30 **Lunch**

14:00 **Session 3 - The Mornings After: Long Term Dialogue** Barbora Struss  
(FAMU), Renen Schorr, Yaron Bloch (TAU), Marcin Malatynski (PWSFTViT)  
Zhang Liangxue (BFA)

15:40 **Coffee Break**

16:00 **CIAKL II** Manuel Jose Damasio (ULHT)

16:15 ***Footsteps in Jerusalem***

19:30 **Dinner** Mona

## July 9, 2015

09:00 **Gathering** YMCA Lobby

09:30 **Session 4 - New Horizons** Renen Schorr

10:45 **Coffee Break**

11:00 **Session 5 - International Platforms: Building New Bridges** Renen Schorr  
Marcin Malatynski, Barbora Struss (FAMU)  
Florian Weghorn (Berlinale Talents)

12:45 **Lunch**

14:00 **Session 6 - Open Mic & Closing** Stanislav Semerdjiev & Maria Dora Mourao  
(CILECT), Renen Schorr

15:00 **Tour** Mahne Yehuda Market

19:00 **Opening Gala** Jerusalem Film Festival

---

# Going the Extra Mile

Welcome to GEECT's Best Kept Secrets Conference, the sixth in the series and the first to be held outside of continental Europe. The conference, **School-Alumni Relations : Going the Extra Mile**, will deal with the unsung and universal question: what is a school's role in the lives of its alumni?

In the late 90's, the CCC alongside the Cineteca Nacional Mexico, held a retrospective for the Sam Spiegel school. During that week, I was invited to one of the most impressive events I had ever seen created by a film school; a full length feature film produced by the CCC as part of their groundbreaking **Opera Prima** project.

It was a genre film, both energetic and impactful. But the true energy of the event came from the audience, who were supportive and in awe of this film and the work that the school put into it, something that CCC didn't **have** to do, but **wanted** to. I was electrified by this response, and on my way home I realized that I wanted our school and our audience to feel what I felt, this time in Jerusalem.

In 2003, we did it. We raised \$350,000 and initiated and produced the school's first alumni feature film, *Miss Entebbe*. It was the first chance for the school's alumni to direct, produce, shoot and edit a full length film, **together**. This one time experiment went on to receive a Special Mention at the Berlinale.



*The Sam Spiegel Silver Jubilee Gala at the YMCA (Jerusalem, 2015)*





*JSFS graduate Nimrod Eldar (class of 2004) receiving the 1st Sam Spiegel Alumni Fund for First Features \$100,000 production grant at the school's Silver Jubilee Gala (2015)*

Two years later we celebrated our 15th anniversary, and for the first time, we saw the school in the eyes of its alumni. This pushed us to go the extra mile, creating a new artistic and human dialogue with them.

Celebrating our Silver Jubilee this year, the school decided to intensify this dialogue with its alumni by assisting them with professional placements, "Mornings After" industry conferences, retrospectives, a "Shadowing" internship program, graduate "matching", feature length tribute projects and more, leading the school to be in dialogue with **72%** of its all time graduates.

The yearlong celebration had many highlights, notably the launching of **The Sam Spiegel Alumni Fund** for First Features and The Silver Jubilee Gala which was held in March 2015, attended by six hundreds guests: alumni, the school's founders, donors, teachers, students, honorary fellows, staff and friends.

We are happy to host you during another one of these highlights, the GEECT "Best Kept Secrets" Conference.

During the conference, we will view and present unique platforms in which a school can strengthen its ties to its alumni. The conference will deal with the fresh graduate and the school's role in helping him take his first steps in the outside world, and with the meaning of creating a long standing relationship with graduates of all classes, its importance and its benefits.

The conference will hopefully shed light not only on the work we **all** do with and for the graduates, but also on the emotional feedback the graduates give us in return, which, yes, I admit, we need from time to time...

A special thanks to the producer and content editor **Ariel Richter**, a fearless graduate who has gone the extra mile to make this conference happen.

And thank you for coming to learn and to share, and hopefully to enjoy!

---

**Renan Schorr**  
Founding Director  
The Sam Spiegel School



*The Jerusalem YMCA*

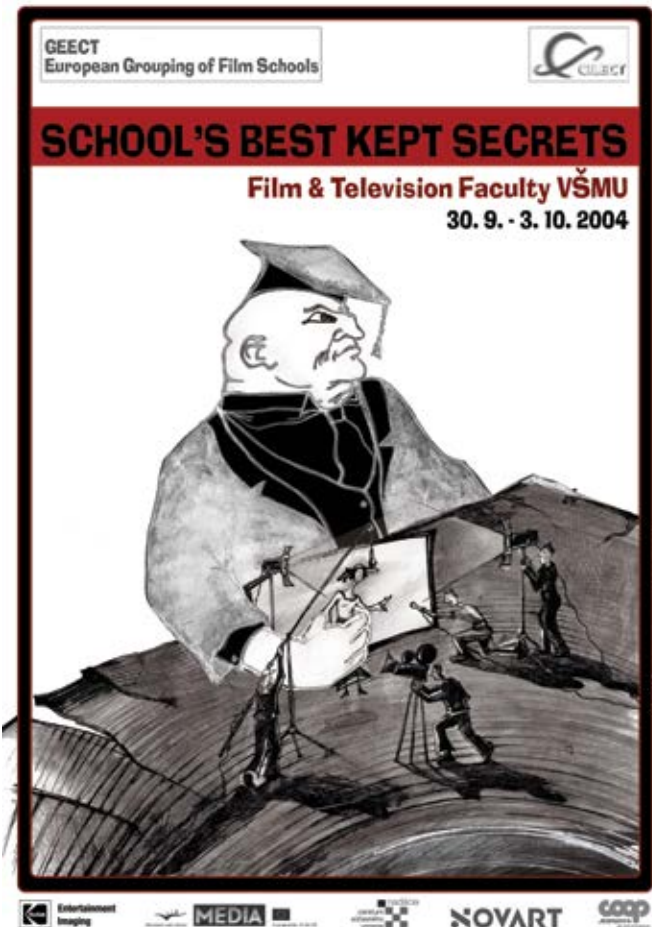
# Sharing the Ladder

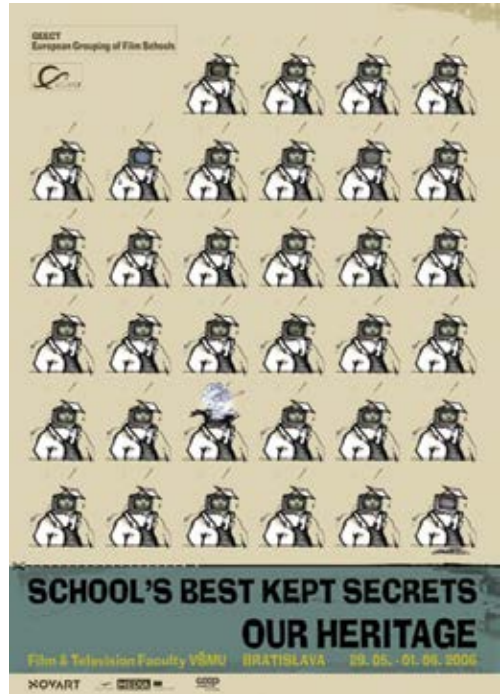
In 2000, during my first year as president of GEECT, I initiated a conference that dealt with how to “cast” new students to the schools. Among other speakers was our colleague Caterina D’Amico from the SNC School in Rome. She noted her

school’s conclusion that the average Italian candidate was well-versed in American television, but had only the slightest idea who Roberto Rossellini and Federico Fellini are. She had decided to tackle this matter by holding a screening of 100 masterworks of the Italian cinema, followed by an exam. As a result, the students who passed the test and enrolled in the school received a sturdy infrastructure to their education, while the others enjoyed a cultural lesson that broadened their general knowledge.

On the flight home to Israel I wrote out my own variation of this idea, knowing that most students didn’t know and/or didn’t appreciate Israeli cinema made up to that point. A year later, our students sat through 4 intensive days of the best of Israeli cinema, prior to the school year, on the big screen, at its best.

I then realized that we **all** should make a point of sharing. Why don’t we get together at a GEECT conference, each reveal





5-6 of these original ideas, our pearls of wisdom, which are simple and applicable, and thus better our schools?

And this is how the **School's Best Kept Secrets** was born.

I turned to legendary Dick Ross, and together we built the **film school ladder**, 11 stages of a student's life, the first step being the "casting" of the student and the final step being the relationship with him after his studies. We were eager to present this new idea, and so I turned to Zuzana Gindl-Tatárová from VSMU, who kindly agreed to host the conference at the inexpensive Bratislava. And so it began.

15 years have passed since that inspiring conference. Five more Best Kept Secrets conferences took place in Bratislava, Amsterdam, Lisbon and Prague, creating a spirit of sharing between our colleagues. I am proud that the conference comes full circle and I am able to share our school's best kept secret here, the final step of the ladder, in Jerusalem, during our Silver Jubilee celebration.

Let's celebrate the sharing!

**Renen Schorr**



**geect** SCHOOLS' BEST KEPT SECRETS V. CONFERENCE  
 BETWEEN FILM AND DIGITAL ANIMATION: WHEN OLD DISTINCTIONS NO LONGER WORK

# Their Fearlessness

Before I left England to come here, the director of the NFTS, Nik Powell, asked me to give you his congratulations, and his apologies. Congratulations you can understand, but why should he apologize? It's because the NFTS website keeps quoting the Hollywood Reporter: NFTS is the number one international film school - when everyone knows Renen has been claiming this for your school for at least the last 20 years!

It reminds me of a story my primary school teacher told me about the three butchers in our small town - all in the same street and all claiming to be the best. One of them stuck a sign in the window: Best butchers in this town! A few days later another put up: Best butchers in Scotland! After another few days the third joined in with a sign: Best butchers on this street! Our teacher asked us to say which sign was the best... I got the right answer when I said there was only one which all the local customers could easily check.

So I can confidently state that the Sam Spiegel School in Jerusalem is the best film school at Number 4 Yad Harutzim Street - and leave it at that...

If I stay away from this debate (about Best Film School), I can still pay for my supper by saying something about the wonderful films I saw in preparation for my visit. I must be discreet because I also

agreed to take Nik Powell's place in an international jury to rank the best ten films out of the 32 which were sent to me. The jury's decisions are not to be revealed until next autumn, so I had better not name names.

This is a problem because some of the films in this collection just blew me away with their audacity, their fearlessness, and their sheer skill. I would love to be able to name them tonight. But I promised Renen to behave myself and so I will stick to some general remarks.

Everyone knows of the trials and tribulations of your country. So the temptation students here must face in their films is to take sides. That would be only too easy. This doesn't mean that they duck the issues. Instead they find ways to deal with the effect of your conflicts on life at the personal and family level. They investigate problems of age, of loneliness, of loss, sexual distress, homelessness, frustration - but without hate, without blame. The characters in your films can feel alienated and pessimistic - frightened even - but the films are not without hope. The best of them promote dialogue, they engage us in a complex consideration of our human condition - willing us to look more closely at our possibilities for peace and freedom - and happiness. That's not a bad agenda.





Shorter films can use concealed short hand if they wish to reach beyond their restricted running time. One film did this by the simple device of having the protagonist facing the “wrong” way at a crucial moment – without changing the dialogue.

Disputes between the generations are routinely rich pickings for student films but one of my favorites digs deeper by locating the story at a moment of great ritual importance for the family involved – without ducking or diving. It takes an honest unblinking look at failure and deception, and the tragedy they can cause.

Others make their impact by ambiguity – leaving things unsaid and unshown – risky but effective nonetheless.

Metaphor also plays its part. There’s more than one film in this collection which works on the imagination without apology for its strangeness - leaving us to enjoy it just as it is.

The faces in these films are wonderful and in some cases fingers and hands are just as expressive –following the maxim of less gives more.

This is not my first time in Jerusalem. On my first visit Renen took his visitors on a tour of the old city to the top of some building where we could have the best view. We passed through a space where a group of men were working on a collection of old rugs. On the way down we saw that they were in fact filling in faded sections of the rugs with colored felt tip pens, hoping no doubt to get a better price for them on the street below.

I have to insist that nothing Renen has said since that time, about this school has even a suggestion of the felt tip pen about it. Not even a whiff.

All he does is point to the truth of your films and their excellent craft. It was a pleasure seeing them, and it’s been a pleasure and an honor talking to you to-night.

Continue to be a beacon for your country’s future – Good luck for the next 25!

---

### Colin Young

Founding Director, NFTS  
President Emeritus, CILECT



*The School's 20th Anniversary DVD  
In early 2016, the school will release The Best 25  
Films Collection*

## A Prayer for Film School Directors

To the big Director in the sky, the Director of directors:  
I realize that you are busy now creating more material for our future films,  
But any minute my new school year is about to begin  
And I have several requests and pleas for you,  
O God,  
Just between us, Director to director.  
May it be Thy will,  
That last year's student films will bring next year's students.  
May we be able to enjoy our students' films, without worrying about how we'll critique them afterwards.

Please, dear Lord,  
Don't let me get phone calls at 3:00 in the morning  
And if so- God forbid- don't let it be a call from a student who fell asleep at the wheel  
on the way home from shooting.  
May they stop inventing new cameras and new formats every minute! Tell them to  
stop being so creative!  
May the 3-D trend be banished from the earth, immediately. I don't want to see students  
in the halls wearing those silly 3-D glasses.

May I cease to be surprised when students and graduates say thank you (and sometimes really mean it).  
May the school's sponsors ask me non-stop, "What do you need? Just tell me!" And  
I'll tell them.

And if someday I'll walk along the streets of Berlin or Cannes, Venice, Toronto or Jerusalem and someone who's become a star-director stops me and says, "You rejected me to your school, and look where I am today..."  
I will understand that not everything is in my hands alone.  
I am only human.  
And You—are God.  
May it be thy will.



Gao Mengqiong  
BFA-China  
gaomengqiong@bfa.edu.cn



Maria Dora Mourao  
USP/CILECT-Brazil  
mdora.cilect@gmail.com



Danny Muggia  
BEIT BERL-Israel  
muggia@netvision.net.il



David Munns  
AUB-UK  
dmunns@aub.ac.uk



Alexandra Neimöck  
FABW-Germany  
alexandra.neimoeck@filmakademie.de



David Noy  
MINSHAR-Israel  
davidno@minshar.org.il



Kathrin Osterdorff  
DFFB-Germany  
k.osterdorff@dffb.de



Joseph Pitchhadze  
TAU-Israel  
pitch@post.tau.ac.il



Robert Rombout  
DOCNOMADS-Belgium  
rob.rombout@gmail.com



Mario Santos  
UCINE-Argentina  
msantos@ucine.edu.ar



Renen Schorr  
JSFS-Israel  
renen@jsfs.co.il



Neomi Schory  
BEIT BERL-Israel  
noemis@beitberl.ac.il



Stanislav Semerdjiev  
CILECT-Bulgaria  
executive.director@cilect.org



Liv Sperber  
BAAD-Israel  
liv@bezalel.ac.il



Marieke Steinhoff  
IFS-Germany  
m.steinhoff@filmschule.de



Simone Stewens  
IFS-Germany  
s.stewens@filmschule.de



Barbora Struss  
FAMU-Czech Republic  
barbora.struss@famucz



Akiva Tevet  
JSFS-Israel  
akiva@jsfs.co.il



Florian Weghorn  
BERLINALE TALENTS  
Germany  
weghorn@berlinale.de

Initiator & Content Editor **Renen Schorr**  
Producer & Content Editor **Ariel Richter**

## Special Thanks

**Eyal Haimovsky** The Jerusalem Development Authority

**Yoram Honig** The Jerusalem Film & Television Fund

**Nava Disenchik** Jerusalem Municipality

**Rafi Gamzou, Vered Heller** Ministry of Foreign Affairs

**Bert Beyens** GEECT

**Stanislav Semerdjiev** CILECT

**Zuzana Gindl-Tatarova** VSMU

**Noa Regev, Eti Tsicko** Jerusalem Film Festival

**Rami Shemesh, Roberta Breiter, Akiva Tevet** JSFS