



FIDDLER'S JOURNEY TO THE BIG SCREEN

A film by Daniel Raim

Narrated by Jeff Goldblum

2022 • USA • 88 mins • Color • In English • Dolby 5.1 • DCP • 2.39:1 aspect ratio



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LOGLINE

An intimate portrait of director Norman Jewison and the making of "Fiddler on the Roof."

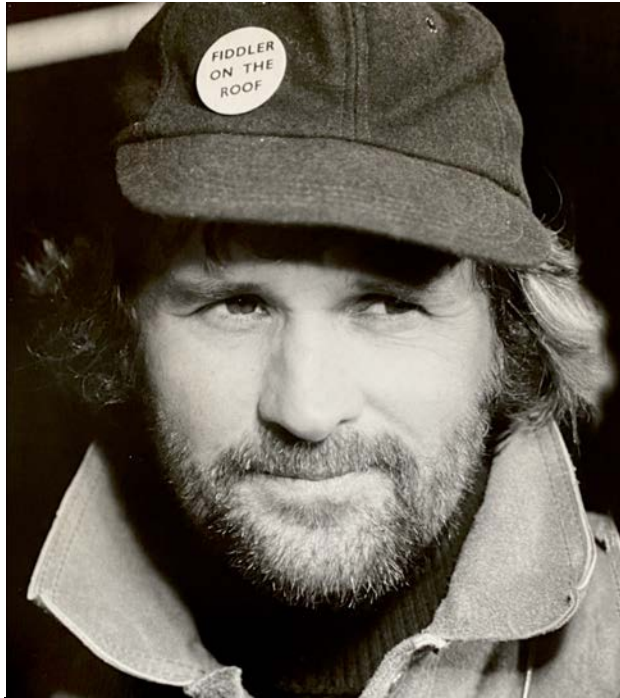
SYNOPSIS

The fall of 2021 marked the 50th anniversary of "Fiddler on the Roof," the film Pauline Kael (*The New Yorker*) called "the most powerful movie musical ever made."

Narrated by Jeff Goldblum, FIDDLER'S JOURNEY TO THE BIG SCREEN captures the humor and drama of director Norman Jewison's quest to recreate the lost world of Jewish life in Tsarist Russia and re-envision the beloved stage hit as a wide-screen epic.

Oscar-nominated filmmaker Daniel Raim puts us in the director's chair and in Jewison's heart and mind, drawing on behind-the-scenes footage and never-before-seen stills as well as original interviews with Jewison, Topol (Tevye), composer John Williams, production designer Robert F. Boyle, film critic Kenneth Turan, lyricist Sheldon Harnick, and actresses Rosalind Harris, Michele Marsh, and Neva Small (Tevye's daughters).

The film explores how the experience of making "Fiddler" deepens Jewison as an artist and revives his soul.



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DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT – DANIEL RAIM

My documentaries preserve film history and depict the art, craft, and soul of the movies through intimate portraits of cinema artists.

In 1999, during my final year as a student at the American Film Institute, I met director Norman Jewison when I started making a documentary about my professor, production designer Robert F. Boyle, who collaborated with Alfred Hitchcock on several classics, including "North by Northwest" and with Jewison on major movies like "The Thomas Crown Affair" and "Fiddler on the Roof." I interviewed Boyle and Jewison about their epic collaboration on "Fiddler" for my Oscar-nominated documentary on Boyle, "The Man on Lincoln's Nose" (2000).

The film version of "Fiddler on the Roof" was introduced to me when I was a child, by my grandparents who survived the Holocaust. Jewison's film, including Robert Boyle's visually stunning and scrupulously researched production design, was a window into the world my grandparents came from, which no longer exists.

I continued exploring "Fiddler" by shooting in-depth interviews with the movie's cast and crew, including the film's star, Topol (shot in 2009), director Norman Jewison (shot in 2016), lyricist Sheldon Harnick (shot in 2017), composer John Williams, film critic Kenneth Turan, and the three actresses who play Tevye's eldest daughters (all shot in 2021).

Making FIDDLER'S JOURNEY TO THE BIG SCREEN has been a true labor of love, years in the making. I wanted to make a documentary that explores Jewison's artistry, compassion, and humanity as well as his spiritual and creative quest directing "Fiddler on the Roof."

—Daniel Raim



Director Norman Jewison, from an interview in FIDDLER'S JOURNEY, filmed at his Malibu home in 2016.

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BIOS

Daniel Raim | Director, Producer, Co-Writer, and Editor

Academy Award-Nominated filmmaker Daniel Raim attended the American Film Institute in Los Angeles. Raim is known for his documentaries about overlooked artists of Hollywood’s Golden Age, including “The Man on Lincoln’s Nose,” nominated for the 2001 Academy Award® for Best Documentary Short Subject. Raim’s 2015 doc “Harold and Lillian A Hollywood Love Story” premiered as an Official Selection of the Cannes Film Festival and was nominated for The Golden Eye (L’Œil d’or, le prix du documentaire - Cannes). In addition to his theatrical films, Daniel has written, produced, and directed 28 original documentaries for the Criterion Collection about cinema masters, including John Cassavetes, Buster Keaton, Andrei Tarkovsky, and Kelly Reichardt. In 2019, Raim directed and produced the TCM feature documentary “Image Makers: The Adventures of America’s Pioneer Cinematographers.”

Sasha Berman | Producer

Sasha Berman has been handling national publicity for theatrical releases of foreign language, documentary, and independent films for over 20 years and has worked on hundreds of award-winning films. Prior to founding her own company, Shotwell Media, she was the Director of Marketing and Publicity at New Yorker Films and the Executive Director of the Coolidge Corner Theatre in Boston. Sasha also consults on theatrical film distribution for independent films and is the personal publicist for Emmy-winning director Maria Schrader (“Unorthodox”).

Michael Sragow | Co-Writer and Co-Producer

Michael Sragow wrote, researched, and coproduced the TCM feature documentary “Image Makers: The Adventures of America’s Pioneer Cinematographers.” A contributing editor at *Film Comment*, Sragow was the first regular movie critic for *Rolling Stone* and one of the original programmers for The Criterion Channel. His criticism has appeared in *The New Yorker*, *The Atlantic*, and *The New York Times*. He edited two volumes of James Agee’s prose for the Library of America and wrote the critical biography “Victor Fleming: An American Movie Master,” cowinner of the 2008 Marfield Prize for distinguished arts writing.

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FEATURING

Interviewees (in order of appearance)

Norman Jewison

John Williams

Sheldon Harnick

Kenneth Turan

Topol

Rosalind Harris

Michele Marsh

Neva Small

Robert F. Boyle

CREDITS

Produced, Directed, and Edited by

Daniel Raim

Written by

Michael Sragow and Daniel Raim

Produced by

Sasha Berman

Executive Producer

Matthew H. Bernstein

Narrated by

Jeff Goldblum

Co-Producer, Narration Writer, and Lead Researcher

Michael Sragow

Cinematographers

Aasulv 'Wolf' Austad, FNF

Sinisa Kukic

Original Music

Dave Lebolt

Musicians

Piano, organ, guitar, electric bass, drums/percussion, banjo, ukeleles, synths

Dave Lebolt

Clarinet, saxophones

Alex Budman

Violin, baritone violin
Lisa Liu

Cello
Ben Lash

Upright bass
Dave Phillips

Original Art
Patrick Mate

Original interviews conducted by
Daniel Raim

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