

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH
JEWISH STUDIES PROGRAM & FILM STUDIES PROGRAM

WITH OUR PARTNERS:



PRESENT A LECTURE AND MULTI-MEDIA PRESENTATION BY

WARREN HOFFMAN
BLACKS AND JEWS ON STAGE AND SCREEN

TUESDAY, MARCH 22, 2011, 7-9 PM

BENEDUM HALL, ROOM G30, UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH CAMPUS

ABOUT THE PRESENTATION: With their shared heritages of slavery, discrimination and Diaspora, blacks and Jews have trod similar, yet distinctive paths. This presentation explores the various ways in which this complex history has manifested itself in films, plays and music. We'll watch and discuss clips from *The Jazz Singer* (1927), *Driving Miss Daisy* (1989), *Liberty Heights* (1999), and *Fires in the Mirror* (1993), and listen to music from Tin Pan Alley musicians like Irving Berlin. We'll look at these works to determine the contributions that African Americans and Jewish Americans have made to American popular culture at large, as well as to determine what this says about how blacks and Jews talk to and about each other.

ABOUT THE SPEAKER: Warren Hoffman is the Director of Arts and Cultural Programming at the Gershman Y in Philadelphia, and an Adjunct Assistant Professor at Temple University. Hoffman holds a Ph.D. in American Literature from University of California-Santa Cruz and has written and lectured on a number of topics including Jewish literature, queer theory and American drama. Warren's first play, *New Words*, was recently nominated for the Christopher Brian Wolk Playwriting Award.

LOCATION: Benedum Hall is located on the Pitt campus at the intersection of O'Hara and N. Bouquet Street. Parking (paid) is available in the O'Hara Garage directly across the street from Benedum Hall.

This free presentation is a program of the Pennsylvania Humanities Council Commonwealth Speakers Program supported in part by the National Endowment for the Humanities, "We the People" Initiative.

RELATED EVENT: SCREENING OF "WHO DO YOU LOVE" AT PITTSBURGH'S JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL

Thursday, March 31, 7 p.m., SouthSide Works Cinema

Pittsburgh Premiere; Director: Jerry Zaks, 2008, USA, 35mm, 90 minutes, English

Leonard and Phil Chess introduced mainstream America to blues legend Muddy Waters, and rhythm and blues artists Chuck Berry and Bo Diddley. This biopic tells the story of the Chess boys, from their earliest days as Polish Jewish immigrants to their ownership of the Macomba, a black nightclub on Chicago's South Side, to the founding of Chess Records in the 1950's. That record label made an indelible mark on American music, showcasing some of the greatest blues, jazz and R&B talents of all time. A terrific sound track accompanies this highly entertaining movie. Audience Award – Best Narrative - Atlanta Jewish Film Festival. For information and tickets: www.JFilmPgh.org
