

"My So-Called Enemy" festival wins; screenings in Seattle, Upstate NY and NJ



Dr. Fred Moser, Lisa Gossels, Dr. Asif Razvi and Rabbi Neal Gold at Temple Shir Tikva

Courtesy of Dan Furmansky

Dear Friends,

I hope you had a wonderful Memorial Day weekend! We have some recent film highlights to share with you and information about June screenings in Seattle, WA, Rhinebeck/Woodstock/Albany, NY and Vineland, NJ. For our latest reviews (from a girls' empowerment and multi-faith perspective), please read to the very end of this newsletter.

Multi-Faith Screening at Temple Shir Tikva in Wayland, MA: More than 300 people attended a community screening of "My So-Called Enemy" at my parents' synagogue. I was joined by Rabbi Neal Gold, Dr. Asif Razvi and Reverend Fred Moser for a multi-faith conversation after the screening. Dr. Razvi, who is the Director of Education at the Islamic Center of Boston, and does a lot of multi-faith work with youth, said the most salient message in the movie was the importance of listening. It was a heartwarming evening and a model we are replicating in other communities.

Newport Beach Film Festival Awards

Although no one from our filmmaking team was able to go to Newport Beach, we were delighted to learn that "My So-Called Enemy" received two awards at the film festival:

- Winner, Jury Award, Best Feature Documentary Film
- Winner, MacGillivray Freeman Films Award for Excellence in Documentary Filmmaking (feature)

June Screenings

Please join us and tell your friends about our upcoming screenings.

Seattle International Film Festival

Sunday, June 5th at 6:30 pm, Harvard Exit

Monday, June 6th 4:30 pm, Harvard Exit

I will do both Q&As.

[Click here](#) for more information.

The Hudson Valley Programmers Group: Rhinebeck, Woodstock and Albany, NY

Sunday June 12th at 1:00 pm -- Upstate Films, Rhinebeck

Monday, June 13th at 6:30 pm -- Teen-Only Screening at the Woodstock Film Festival and Hudson Valley Film Commission Film Center, Woodstock **If you have a teen interested in attending, call 845.679.4265

Tuesday, June 14th at 6:45pm -- Spectrum 8, Albany

I will do in-depth Q&As after each of the screenings.

[Click here](#) for more information.

Community Screening and Reception in Vineland/Bridgeton, NJ

Sunday, June 26th (late afternoon/early evening)

Robert Dragotta, who generously donated his home in Bridgeton for the 2002 [Building Bridges for Peace](#) summer program (where we filmed), is organizing a community screening at the Landis Theater in Vineland and a reception at his home. I am happy that representatives from the First Presbyterian Church in Bridgeton and the Jewish Federation of Vineland will be with us at this special event.

Check our website and Facebook page for more details in the next week or two.

Organizing a screening in your community

Please let me know if you are interested in hosting a screening and/or inviting me to present "My So-Called Enemy" at your academic or religious institution, peace/multi-faith organization, after-school or summer youth program. Because our model with "My So-Called Enemy" is coalition-building and celebrating multiple voices, we encourage screenings to be co-hosted by diverse groups, if at all possible. When visiting college campuses, I also teach in classrooms and meet with students and faculty.

Thank you for your ongoing support of "My So-Called Enemy." I look forward to seeing you soon.

Warmest,

Lisa

Recent press

From [go GIRL global](#), "a free online source of information for girls 8-15 who are the next generation of smart, strong, amazing women."

Groovy: Faces of Conflict

By Lisa Eisenbud (May 24, 2011)

Conflicts happen all around us. This week you may have heard news stories about world leaders weighing in on the enemy lines of Israel and Palestine in particular. Whether you experience the common challenges of getting along with family, friends, and school mates or you live with the deep divides of violent conflict for generations, girls experience the faces of conflict. Finding hope, justice, and healing is so hard. This human struggle has fueled groovy art for centuries, and we think the messages hold real hope for the future.

"My So Called Enemy" is a new award winning film by Lisa Gossels. Watch the realities of being a girl in the Middle East through the lives of six Israeli and Palestinian girls who are connected by the Seeking Common Ground - Building Bridges for Peace program.

Powerful, passionate and creative voices are emerging right now to show all of us that it is possible to find friendship amongst enemies. Within these stories, inspiring girls and women share their very real life changing friendships. Certain enemies fade and a human face starts to create a space for hope and understanding. Elevating the ideas and voices of girls and women may be the best organic way to grow a new future. Take a peek at the film, video and books that our expanding our view of what is possible. There is nothing more groovy than finding out that behind enemy lines is one of your life long friends.

HollywoodJesus.com: Pop Culture from a Spiritual Point of View

My So-Called Enemy: Meeting "the Other" Hope for the Israel-Palestine Conflict?

By Darrel Manson (May 6, 2011) Movies, Reviews, Festivals, Newport 2011

...This film is not an in depth look at the conflict, rather it allows us to see the way the conflict has affected the lives of some of those who are growing to adulthood in that environment. It does not try to give solutions, but it gives the impression that a part of any solution is to be found in the discovery that those we may think of as enemy are really very like us. The difficulties and tensions have not gone away for these young women. But they have a foundation for dealing with those issues that may serve them in the years still ahead of them.

This is an excellent film for use in churches, mosques, and synagogues, or by interfaith groups. I would encourage those who want to see the Palestinian-Israeli conflict through the lives of these women to visit the film's website and see if there is a screening coming to your area, and if not, contact the filmmakers for information on hosting a screening.

[Click here](#) for the full review.

JTNews.net – Your Jewish Guide to the Seattle International Film Festival

By Herb Krohn (May 25, 2011)

My So Called Enemy

Rating: Excellent

...It is amazing to watch these young women interact honestly and directly with each other far away from their home environment. While they could easily be mistaken for a class or a small group of friends, it is remarkable to see how similar they all are individually, yet a huge, almost unbridgeable gap exists in the midst of it all. The film follows up on many of the participants over the next several years. In some cases, true friendship does take hold, even across the dividing wall, yet in others the women head down their own paths as they mature into adulthood.

The heated discussions between these girls delve into the hatred shared by both sides, yet we are able to see even those with the strongest animosity for the other side are able to empathize with their enemy — at least on an individualized basis. They all leave with some lasting change within themselves: The inability, even over some of their deeply ingrained beliefs, to completely dehumanize the other side.

For the latest news on "My So-Called Enemy"

Join our mailing list: www.mysocalledenemy.com

"Like" our film on Facebook: www.facebook.com/mysocalledenemy

Watch our trailer: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5kKOL14t2XE>

"MY SO-CALLED ENEMY" a good egg production
director/producer **Lisa Gossels** producer **Eden Wurmfeld**
director of photography **Justin Schein** edited by **Lisa Gossels**
David Mehlman Toby Shimin music by **Nathan Larson**

2010 Hamptons International Film Festival
Winner, Jury Prize for Best Conflict & Resolution Film

2010 Starz Denver Film Festival
Winner, Special Jury Prize in Filmmaking

2010 Boston Jewish Film Festival
Winner, Audience Award, Best Feature Documentary Film

2011 Newport Beach Film Festival
Winner, Jury Award, Best Feature Documentary Film
Winner, MacGillivray Freeman Films Award for Excellence in Documentary Filmmaking (feature)