Mary Lou

NEW YORK PREMIERE
REMEMBRANCE
Anna Justice | Germany | 2011
105m | English, German and Polish with English subtitles
Inspired by actual events, *Remembrance* depicts a remarkable love story that blossomed in the terror and squalor of a Nazi concentration camp in 1944 Poland. In a daring escape, Tomasz, a young Polish prisoner, rescues his Jewish lover, Hannah. In the chaos of the end of the war, they are forcibly separated and each is convinced that the other has died. More than 30 years later in New York City, Hannah believes she has seen Tomasz interviewed on television and she begins to search for him again. Anna Justice (*Max Minsky and Me*, NYJFF 2009) directs this powerful and artfully crafted drama.
Mon Jan 16: 6:00pm
Tue Jan 17: 3:15pm

NEW YORK PREMIERE
RESTORATION
Joseph Madmony | Israel
2010 | 105m | Hebrew with English subtitles
Joseph Madmony (*The Barbecue People*, NYJFF 2004) returns with this sensitive drama in which a Tel Aviv man struggles to keep his antique restoration business afloat. Amidst conflicts with his son, a stranger comes to town and a complex love triangle complicates his plans. Featuring outstanding performances by Sasson Gabai (*The Band's Visit*) and Sarah Adler (*Ultimatum*, NYJFF 2010). Nominated for 11 Ophir Awards (Israeli Academy Awards), and winner of the Dramatic Screenwriting Award at the 2011 Sundance Film Festival.
Sun Jan 15: 6:00pm
Mon Jan 16: 8:45pm

NEW YORK PREMIERE
SHOAH: THE UNSEEN INTERVIEWS
U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum | U.S.
2011 | 55m | English
This program presents a rare opportunity to see powerful, unused footage from three interviews filmed for Claude Lanzmann's landmark documentary *Shoah*—Abraham Bomba, who was a barber in Treblinka; Peter Bergson, who struggled to publicize Nazi crimes against the Jews; and the deeply affecting Ruth Elias. Raye Farr, director of the Steven Spielberg Film & Video Archive at the USHMM, will discuss the painstaking process of preserving the 16mm film and editing these segments for viewing.
Sun Jan 15: 3:30pm

U.S. PREMIERE
THE SILENT HISTORIAN
Simonka de Jong
The Netherlands
2011 | 55m | Dutch with English subtitles
A fascinating documentary about the filmmaker's grandfather, the prominent Dutch historian Loe de Jong, known for his research on the history of the Netherlands during World War II. De Jong grew to national prominence when the war history of public figures such as Prince Claus came to light. After his death, the family made a discovery—Loe had concealed personal documents about his twin brother, Sally, who didn't survive the war. Why did Loe never give these letters to Sally's children who spent their lives looking for the family that was broken apart by the war?
PRECEDED BY
WORLD PREMIERE
JOANN SFAR DRAWS FROM MEMORY
Sam Ball | U.S./France
2012 | 46m | French with English subtitles
Sam Ball (*Poumy*, NYJFF 2005 and *Pleasures of Urban Decay*, 2000) returns with another fascinating documentary portrait, turning his lens on graphic novelist and filmmaker Joann Sfar, author of the popular *The Rabbi's Cat* series and director of the recent film, *Serge Gainsbourg (Vie Héroïque)*. The film follows Sfar to his favorite neighborhood spots, as he muses on his artistic process and the influence of his Algerian and East European family heritage.
Wed Jan 25: 3:00pm, 8:30pm

TORN
Ronit Kertsner | Israel
2011 | 72m | Hebrew, English, French and Polish with English subtitles
Can one be a Catholic priest and an observant Jew at the same time? Twelve years after he was ordained as a priest, Romuald Waszkinel discovers that he was born to Jewish parents. This powerful documentary by Ronit Kertsner (*The Secret*, NYJFF 2002) follows his amazing journey from conducting mass in a church in Poland to life as an observant Jew on a religious kibbutz in Israel. Romuald is torn between two identities. Unable to renounce either one, he finds himself rejected by both religions and the State of Israel.
PRECEDED BY
NEW YORK PREMIERE
THE MOON IS JEWISH
Michal Tkaczynski | Poland
2011 | 45m | Polish with English subtitles
Pawel was a skinhead in Warsaw, obsessed with soccer and violence, when his girlfriend discovered he had Jewish ancestry. He underwent a complete spiritual and physical transformation and is now an Orthodox Jew. This compelling documentary, which takes its title from provocative poet Marcin Świetlicki, tells an extraordinary story of identity and belonging.
Tue Jan 17: 6:00pm (EBMFC)
Wed Jan 18: 1:00pm

WORLD PREMIERE
WHITE: A MEMOIR IN COLOR
Joel Katz | U.S. | 2012
59m | English
In this personal documentary, Joel Katz (*Strange Fruit*, NYJFF 2002) explores what it means to be white in America through the story of his own family across generations. His father's role as a white professor at Howard University, a traditionally black college, during the civil rights era comes to bear on his and his wife's decision to adopt a mixed-race child. Original score by Don Byron.
PRECEDED BY
LETTERS HOME
Melissa Hacker | U.S
2010 | 9m | English
An elegantly made short based on correspondence from the director's great-aunt Freda, written as she traveled through Germany and Austria in the American Army Women's Corps in 1945.
Thu Jan 12: 1:30pm, 6:00pm

TICKETS + VENUES

MEMBER PRIORITY SALE: DECEMBER 15TH-31ST

Film Society of Lincoln Center Walter Reade Theater, 165 West 65th Street, between Broadway and Amsterdam Avenue | Elinor Bunin Munroe Film Center, 144 West 65th Street | **FilmLinc.com**

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SCHEDULE

Wed Jan 11
1:00 Mabul *with* Howl
3:45 400 Miles to Freedom *with* Panta Rhei
6:00 Mabul *with* Howl
8:45 Invisible

Thurs Jan 12
1:30 White: A Memoir in Color *with* Letters Home
3:30 Invisible
6:00 White: A Memoir in Color *with* Letters Home
8:15 Follow Me: The Yoni Netanyahu Story

Sat Jan 14
6:30 Bachelor Days Are Over
9:00 Mary Lou

Sun Jan 15
1:00 Breaking Home Ties
3:30 Shoah: The Unseen Interviews
6:00 Restoration
8:45 Bachelor Days Are Over

Mon Jan 16
1:00 Dressing America *with* Orbit
3:15 Lost Love Diaries *with* Iraq 'N' Roll
6:00 Remembrance
8:45 Restoration

Tues Jan 17
1:00 Deaf Jam
3:15 Remembrance
6:00 Torn *with* The Moon is Jewish EBMFC
9:00 My Father Evgeni *with* Three Promises EBMFC

Wed Jan 18
1:00 Torn *with* The Moon is Jewish
3:30 My Father Evgeni *with* Three Promises
6:00 400 Miles to Freedom *with* Panta Rhei
8:30 Lost Love Diaries *with* Iraq 'N' Roll

Thurs Jan 19
1:00 100 Voices: A Journey Home
3:30 My Australia
6:00 100 Voices: A Journey Home
8:30 Deaf Jam

Sat Jan 21
6:30 My Australia
9:00 Daas

Sun Jan 22
1:00 My Song Goes Round the World
3:20 Lea and Darija
6:00 A Bottle in the Gaza Sea
8:30 The Queen Has No Crown *with* Grandmothers

Mon Jan 23
1:00 A Bottle in the Gaza Sea
3:30 The Queen Has No Crown *with* Grandmothers
6:00 Follow Me: The Yoni Netanyahu Story
8:30 Lea and Darija

Tues Jan 24
6:00 Incessant Visions: Letters From An Architect
8:15 Dressing America *with* Orbit

Wed Jan 25
1:00 Incessant Visions: Letters From An Architect
3:00 The Silent Historian *with* Joann Sfar Draws from Memory
6:00 My Song Goes Round the World
8:30 The Silent Historian *with* Joann Sfar Draws from Memory

Thurs Jan 26
1:00 Daas
3:45 Welcome to Kutsher's
6:00 Daas
8:30 Welcome to Kutsher's

All films at THE WALTER READE THEATER except EBMFC - ELINOR BUNIN MUNROE FILM CENTER

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Incessant Visions

Mabul

NEW YORK JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL

JAN 11–26 2012

Presented by The Jewish Museum & the Film Society of Lincoln Center

Lea and Darija

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New York Jewish Film Festival, a preeminent showcase for world cinema exploring the Jewish experience. This diverse selection of films includes dramatic features, riveting documentaries, entertaining comedies and tantalizing shorts. Presented by The Jewish Museum and the Film Society of Lincoln Center, the Festival includes world, U.S. and New York premieres. Visit FilmLinc.com and TheJewishMuseum.org/NYJFF2012 for up-to-the-minute information.

OPENING NIGHT

NEW YORK PREMIERE
MABUL (THE FLOOD)
Guy Nattiv | Israel/Canada/France | 2010 | 101m | Hebrew with English subtitles
Everything is complicated in Yoni's life. He's almost 13 and smart, but physically underdeveloped. His classmates bully him and his parents barely say a word to each other. As if this weren't enough, his 17-year-old autistic brother Tomer returns home from an institution right before Yoni's bar mitzvah. Buried secrets come to light and Yoni's bar mitzvah Torah portion—Noah and the flood—becomes a metaphor for the family's fragile and frozen existence. Nominated for six Ophir Awards (Israeli Academy Awards), *Mabul* features unforgettable performances by Ronit Elkabetz (*The Band's Visit*), Tzahi Grad (*Eyes Wide Open*, NYJFF 2010; *Someone to Run With*, NYJFF 2008) and Michael Moshonov (*Tehilim*, NYJFF 2008).
PRECEDED BY
U.S. PREMIERE
HOWL
Natalie Bettelheim & Sharon Michaeli | Israel | 2011 | 7m
No spoken language
An intriguing hand-drawn animated short featuring a "wild child" wolf girl and her loving mother.
WED JAN 11: 1:00PM, 6:00PM

CLOSING NIGHT

WORLD PREMIERE
WELCOME TO KUTSHER'S: THE LAST CATSKILLS RESORT
Caroline Laskow & Ian Rosenberg | U.S. | 2012
73m | English
Kutsher's Country Club is the last surviving Jewish resort in the Catskills, and in its heyday was one of the legendary "Borscht Belt" hotels. The resorts were not only a Jewish vacation paradise, they also had significant influence on entertainment, stand-up comedy and sports. In this enjoyable documentary, watch Wilt Chamberlain playing ball and working as a bellhop at Kutsher's; laugh with Freddie Roman as his classic routine still brings down the house; see ice skating instructor extraordinaire Olga Duffy hop up on the Zamboni; and marvel at the abundance of hearty kosher feasts.
THU JAN 26: 3:45PM, 8:30PM

100 VOICES: A JOURNEY HOME
Danny Gold & Matthew Asner
U.S. | 2012 | 91m | English
A compelling and uplifting documentary that looks at Jewish culture in Poland, past and present, through a unique focus—100 cantors from around the world who come together for concerts at the Warsaw Opera House and the Nozyk Synagogue. The film traces a lineage from cantorial superstar Moishe Oysher, also star of the Yiddish stage and screen, to contemporary counterparts including Alberto Mizrahi and Jacob Mendelson.
THU JAN 19: 1:00PM, 6:00PM

WORLD PREMIERE
400 MILES TO FREEDOM
Avishai Yeganyahu Mekonen & Shari Rothfarb Mekonen
U.S./Israel | 2012 | 60m
English, Hebrew and Amharic with English subtitles
In 1984, the Beta Israel—a secluded 2,500-year-old community of observant Jews in the northern Ethiopian mountains—began a secret and dangerous journey of escape. Co-director Avishai Mekonen, then 10 years old, was among them. In this film, he breaks his 20-year silence about the kidnapping he endured as a child in Sudan during his community's exodus. This life-defining event launches an inquiry into identity, leading him to African, Asian and Latino Jews in Israel and the U.S.
PRECEDED BY
U.S. PREMIERE
PANTA RHEI
Amos Holzman | Israel
2010 | 20m | Hebrew
with English subtitles
A young Israeli has a meltdown during his army exam. A typical teenager, he is an attractive smart aleck with attitude.
WED JAN 11: 3:45PM
WED JAN 18: 6:00PM

NEW YORK PREMIERE
BACHELOR DAYS ARE OVER
Katia Lewkowicz | France
2011 | 96m | French with English subtitles
A few days before his wedding, a young man (Benjamin Biolay) has to make unexpected decisions and cope with his fiancée, who has seemingly flown the coop. Enter a charming chanteuse (Sarah Adler), his preoccupied mother, critical sister (Emmanuelle Devos, *Coco Before Chanel*), unintelligible in-laws, patient pals and workers renovating his apartment. Marriage or passionate love, family past or marital future, balloons or no balloons, flower petals or sugar almonds...how can he deal with such crucial issues at stake?
SAT JAN 14: 6:30PM
SUN JAN 15: 8:45PM

U.S. PREMIERE
A BOTTLE IN THE GAZA SEA
Thierry Binisti | France
2010 90m | French, Hebrew, English and Arabic with English subtitles
Tal is a 17-year-old Frenchwoman who has settled in Jerusalem with her family. She writes a letter expressing her refusal to accept that only hatred can reign between Israelis and Palestinians. She slips the letter into a bottle, and her brother throws it into the sea near Gaza, where he is carrying out his military service. A few weeks later, Tal receives a response from a mysterious "Gazaman," a young Palestinian named Naïm. This engrossing and hopeful drama starring Hiam Abbas is based on the award-winning novel by Valérie Zenatti.
SUN JAN 22: 6:00PM
MON JAN 23: 1:00PM

Invisible

The Moon is Jewish

U.S. PREMIERE OF RESTORED VERSION
BREAKING HOME TIES
Frank N. Seltzer & George K. Rowlands | U.S. | 1922 | 78m | B/W
Silent with English intertitles and live piano by Donald Sosin
Thinking he has killed his friend Paul in a jealous rage, David Bergmann flees pre-revolutionary Russia for America. In New York he becomes a successful lawyer and woos smart, independent Rose, also the boss' daughter. Meanwhile, his wealthy parents sell their fancy home in St. Petersburg and emigrate to New York. Unable to find their son, they fall into poverty. Will David marry Rose? Will the Bergmanns be reunited? And what happened to Paul? This drama, long thought lost, is a gem of the silent era, presented in a new restoration by the National Center for Jewish Film.
SUN JAN 15: 1:00PM

U.S. PREMIERE
DAAS
Adrian Panek | Poland
2011 | 102m | Polish with English subtitles
A dazzling period drama, *Daas* explores the influence of 18th-century false messiah Jacob Frank. Claiming powers of mystical healing and prophecy, Frank promises immortality to his converts. A Viennese lawyer investigates Frank, seeing him as a threat to the Austrian Empire, and a former disciple seeks justice. Adrian Panek brings us a tale of intrigue and conspiracy, conjuring the time and place with a painterly aesthetic.
SAT JAN 21: 9:00PM
THU JAN 26: 1:00PM, 6:00PM

NEW YORK CITY PREMIERE
DEAF JAM
Judy Lieff | U.S. | 2011 | 70m
Spoken English and American Sign Language, fully subtitled
This high-energy documentary explores the beauty and power of American Sign Language (ASL) poetry through the story of deaf teen Aneta Brodski's bold journey into the spoken word poetry slam scene. In a remarkable twist of fate, Aneta—an Israeli immigrant high school student living in New York—meets and then collaborates with Tahani—a hearing Palestinian slam poet. Poetry, friendship and respect transcend politics as the two young women create a hearing/deaf duet.
TUE JAN 17: 1:00PM
THU JAN 19: 8:30PM

Restoration

NEW YORK PREMIERE
DRESSING AMERICA: TALES FROM THE GARMENT CENTER
Stephen Fischler & Joel Sucher | U.S. | 2011 | 57m
English
From the directors of *From Swastika to Jim Crow* (NYJFF 2000) comes this fascinating documentary exploring the post-World War II heyday of the garment district in Manhattan. Mavens of the "*shmatte*" business pay tribute to the Jewish immigrant roots of the garment industry, when *Sam, You Made the Pants Too Long* was a top musical hit and American designers challenged the hegemony of Paris fashion.
PRECEDED BY
NEW YORK PREMIERE
ORBIT
Jessica Dorfman | U.S.
2011 | 19m | English
In this short drama, a young girl ponders her place and develops a crush on a waiter at her father's second wedding.
MON JAN 16: 1:00PM
TUE JAN 24: 8:15PM

WORLD PREMIERE
FOLLOW ME: THE YONI NETANYAHU STORY
Jonathan Gruber & Ari Daniel Pinchot | U.S. | 2012 | 80m
Hebrew and English with English subtitles
Jonathan "Yoni" Netanyahu, then a commander in the Israeli army, was killed at the age of 30 leading the 1976 hostage rescue mission at the Entebbe Airport in Uganda. In *Follow Me*, documentarian Jonathan Gruber (*Jewish Soldiers in Blue and Gray*, NYJFF 2011) presents a moving portrait of Yoni's life through his own poetry, prose and letters. Ultimately a portrait of a young country through a young man, the film also features rarely seen footage of the 1967 war and the Entebbe raid itself, as covered by journalism legend Walter Cronkite.
THU JAN 12: 8:15PM
MON JAN 23: 6:00PM

NEW YORK PREMIERE
INCESSANT VISIONS: LETTERS FROM AN ARCHITECT
Duki Dror | Israel | 2011
70m | Hebrew and German with English subtitles
A cinematic meditation about architect Erich Mendelsohn based on his letters and a memoir by his wife Louise. As a young man, he drew sketches on tiny pieces of paper and sent them, from the trenches, to the young cellist waiting for him in Berlin. She believed in his genius and after World War I helped him become the busiest architect in Germany. When she planned to leave him for a communist poet, he built a perfect house for her. When the Nazis came to power, the couple escaped the house and Germany, and he turned his talents to creating buildings in the U.S. and Israel.
TUE JAN 24: 6:00PM
WED JAN 25: 1:00PM

NEW YORK PREMIERE
INVISIBLE
Michal Aviad | Israel
2011 | 90m | Hebrew with English subtitles
The magnetic Ronit Elkabetz (*The Band's Visit, Late Marriage, Or*) delivers a stunning performance in this drama. Two women discover they were both victims of the same serial rapist 20 years earlier. While one wishes to keep the past buried, the other becomes consumed with uncovering as much as she can about the rapist. Their friendship empowers them to face their disturbing past and to seek justice. Based on genuine crimes committed in Tel Aviv in the 1970s, this gripping film includes period television reports of the case.
WED JAN 11: 8:45PM
THU JAN 12: 3:30PM

U.S. PREMIERE
LEA AND DARIJA
Branko Ivanda | Croatia
2011 | 101m | Croatian with English subtitles
A captivating drama tells the story of Lea Deutsch, known as the Croatian Shirley Temple, and her friend and dancing partner Darija Gasteiger. The two talented and exuberant 13-year-old girls were great stars in Zagreb on the eve of World War II. They played to sold-out houses around Europe, were filmed by Pathé Paris and Berlin's UFA and lived in the rarefied world of the 1930s Croatian National Theater's "Children's Realm." The Nazi persecution of Jews and later, German nationals' flight from communists, tests their friendship.
SUN JAN 22: 3:20PM
MON JAN 23: 8:30PM

Breaking Home Ties

400 Miles to Freedom

LOST LOVE DIARIES
Yasmine Novak | Israel | 2011
53m | Hebrew, English and Dutch with English subtitles
On the morning of her wedding day, Ellis receives a package in the mail. It contains a diary kept by the first love of her life, Bernie, during his time underground in World War II. When Bernie did not return, Ellis married another man and moved with him to Palestine. She kept the diary hidden for 65 years until her historian daughter prevailed upon her to read it and try to find out what happened to Bernie. This gripping documentary is a combination detective story and love saga.
PRECEDED BY
NEW YORK PREMIERE
IRAQ 'N' ROLL
Gili Gaon | Israel | 2011
52m | Hebrew and Arabic with English subtitles
Popular Israeli rock musician Dudu Tassa embarks on a mission to revive his grandfather's traditional Iraqi songs by remixing the tunes for contemporary listeners. Salah and his brother Daud al-Kuwaiti were highly acclaimed Jewish musicians in 1930s Iraq. They arrived in Israel in the 1950s and found they were unknown and unappreciated. In this musical documentary, Tassa engages in a labor of love to research and perform his family's musical past.
MON JAN 16: 3:15PM
WED JAN 18: 8:30PM

NEW YORK PREMIERE
MARY LOU
Eytan Fox | Israel | 2010
150m | Hebrew with English subtitles
Acclaimed Israeli director Eytan Fox (*The Bubble, Walk on Water, Florentine*) brings to life a modern fable with a catchy musical message and a story based on the songs of Israeli pop legend Svika Pick. Meir, a young man whose glamorous mother mysteriously disappears, searches for her in Tel Aviv. He learns about love with the help of the gay community and Israeli pop music while performing as a drag queen named Mary Lou. A cross between the TV series *Glee* and the musical *Mama Mia*, by way of *La Cage aux Folles* Israeli-style, *Mary Lou* garnered the equivalent of the Israeli Emmy Award for best mini-series.
SAT JAN 14: 9:00PM

NEW YORK PREMIERE
MY AUSTRALIA
Ami Drozd | Israel/Poland | 2009 | 100m
Polish and Hebrew with English subtitles
In a poor neighborhood in 1960s Łódź, Poland, 10-year-old Tadek and his brother are in a gang with a strong anti-Semitic bent. When they are arrested, their mother, a Holocaust survivor, has no choice but to reveal that though raised as Catholics, they are in fact Jews. Telling the younger boy they are going to Australia, the land of his fantasies, the family boards a ship to Israel. This tender and humorous drama is based on the filmmaker's own experiences.
THU JAN 19: 3:30PM
SAT JAN 21: 6:30PM

Bachelor Days Are Over

MY FATHER EVGENI
Andrei Zagdansky | U.S./Ukraine | 2010 | 77m | Russian with English subtitles
Andrei Zagdansky (*Interpretation of Dreams*, NYJFF 1992) returns to the NYJFF with a moving portrait of his father, who was editor-in-chief of the Kiev Popular Science Film Studio. Father and son worked in the same studio for 11 years, until Andrei immigrated to New York with his family. Evgeni's letters to Andrei and Andrei's narrative of his father's life intertwine, creating a portrait of the man and a particular moment in Soviet culture.
PRECEDED BY
WORLD PREMIERE
THREE PROMISES
Edward Serotta | Serbia/U.S. 2011 | 19m | Serbian with English subtitles
Through family photographs, sisters Breda and Matilda Kalef take us into the world of Sephardic pre-World War II Serbia and the dramatic story of their flight to safety. The family photo album, containing 169 pictures, remained in Belgrade. When the Kalefs returned after the war, the album was still there, but nearly all those in it had been killed.
TUE JAN 17: 9:00PM (EBMFC)
WED JAN 18: 3:30PM

MY SONG GOES ROUND THE WORLD
Richard Oswald | England
1933 | 85m | English
A musical film showcasing the talents of the great tenor Joseph Schmidt (1904-1942), known as the Jewish Caruso. Paralleling Schmidt's own life story, this drama by Richard Oswald (*Different from the Others*, NYJFF 2000) tells the tale of a talented singer who finds challenges in both his career and his love life because he is less than 5 feet tall. Schmidt, who also performed as a cantor and radio star, sings with great power and passion in this charming and humorous film set in Venice.
SUN JAN 22: 1:00PM
WED JAN 25: 6:00PM

THE QUEEN HAS NO CROWN
Tomer Heymann | Israel
2011 | 82m | Hebrew and English with English subtitles
Tomer Heymann (*Paper Dolls*) brings us this poignant meditation on family and loss using 8 and 16mm home movies and more recent footage he shot over the past decade to navigate the intimate lives of five brothers and their mother. Three of the Heymann sons take their families and leave Israel for "better" lives in America. They fulfill their own dreams, but shatter those of their mother. She is left in Israel with her two bachelor sons—one straight and the other, Tomer, gay. Exploring the politics of belonging, displacement and sexuality, the film examines the decisions one family has to make and the intractable bonds that unite them in the face of difficult life choices.
PRECEDED BY
NEW YORK PREMIERE
GRANDMOTHERS
Michael Wahrmann | Brazil
2009 | 12m | Portuguese with English subtitles
Do all grandmothers give socks and underwear as birthday presents? 10-year-old Leo is much more intrigued by his grandpa's gift—a Super-8 movie camera.
SUN JAN 22: 8:30PM
MON JAN 23: 3:30PM