

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910817162103321
Autore	Goldman Eric A
Titolo	The American Jewish story through cinema [[electronic resource] /] / by Eric A. Goldman
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Austin, : University of Texas Press, 2013
ISBN	0-292-74431-5
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (265 p.)
Collana	The Jewish history, life, and culture series
Disciplina	791.43/6552
Soggetti	Jews in motion pictures Jews in the motion picture industry - United States
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. 225-232) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Introduction: a century of American Jewish life -- The jazz singer: out of the Jewish ghetto (the 1920's) -- Gentleman's agreement and Crossfire: films that took on anti-Semitism in 1947 (the 1940's) -- The young lions: guaranteeing acceptance (the 1950's) -- The way we were and The prince of tides: Barbra Streisand and the evolving American Jewish woman (the 1970's and 1980's) -- Avalon and Liberty heights: the spirit of family--remembering better (the 1990's) -- Everything is illuminated: a new direction in film-- Searching for a usable past (the twenty-first century).
Sommario/riassunto	Like the haggadah, the traditional "telling" of the story of the Israelites' exodus from Egypt that is read at the Passover seder, cinema offers a valuable text from which to gain an understanding of the social, political, and cultural realities of Jews in America. In an industry strongly influenced by Jewish filmmakers who made and continue to make the decisions as to which films are produced, the complex and evolving nature of the American Jewish condition has had considerable impact on American cinema and, in particular, on how Jews are reflected on the screen. This groundbreaking study analyzes select mainstream films from the beginning of the sound era to today to provide an understanding of the American Jewish experience over the last century. In the first half of the twentieth century, Hollywood's movie moguls, most of whom were Jewish, shied away from asserting a Jewish image on the screen for fear that they might be too closely

identified with that representation. Over the next two decades, Jewish moviemakers became more comfortable with the concept of a Jewish hero and with an overpowered, yet heroic, Israel. In time, the Holocaust assumed center stage as the single event with the greatest effect on American Jewish identity. Recently, as American Jewish screenwriters, directors, and producers have become increasingly comfortable with their heritage, we are seeing an unprecedented number of movies that spotlight Jewish protagonists, experiences, and challenges.

---