

Focus on Film

Documentary

# Chewdaism

Thursday, May 9, 2019 @ 7:00 p.m.

*Directors: Jamie Elman and Eli Batalion, 2018 Canada*

*Running time: 62 minutes English*

This documentary from comedy duo, Eli Batalion and Jamie Elman, is a foodie delight, a taste of Jewish Montreal. They are creators and co-stars of YidLife Crisis, a successful Yiddish language web series exploring, with charm and jocular snark, the burning questions and absurdities of contemporary Jewish life.

Canadian funnymen and best friends return to their hometown to explore their heritage by spending an entire day eating their way across the city as they discover their own personal issues within the story of Jewish Montreal. This couple traveled the world with their show, documenting Jewish food cultures from New York to London to Tel Aviv. Now nearing middle age and their own proverbial YidLife Crisis, they are back in Montreal to delve into a hundred years of the city's rich Jewish history.

Through charming cooking sights, the city's rich cuisine is joyful captured in this visually sumptuous culinary adventure that explores the art and the pleasure of preparing and savoring kosher gastronomic choices largely drawn from localized ingredients. As our guides discover the roots of the city's Jewish community through a

series of classical Jewish eateries, they tell the story of their 100-year-old community, with various guests along the way sharing tales and meals.

Chewdaism is as illuminating as it is lively, joyous, and a mouth-watering feast for the eyes and the soul. The friendly couple stuff themselves with -and kvell over- its even richer Jewish food, from bagels for breakfast, deli-smoked meats at lunch, and a Hassidic bakery's chocolate babka snack, to a raucous Sephardic dinner and taste of the new Jewish fusion cuisine at an innovative Montreal restaurant. Over 24 hours this dynamic duo seek out the best Jewish eateries Montreal offers, unlocking its intriguing past and marveling at its vibrant present and future.

This delightful documentary offers a gastronomic adventure to be savored, a warm-hearted, affectionate tour of Montreal with a pair of hilarious and hungry guides with a bottomless appetite for great food and witty conversation.

***Reviewed by Noemi & Jose Mirkin***

THE LENORE MARWIL  
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