

Cinema Utopia

Unorthodox

An Anna Wexler and Nadja Oertelt film.



Unorthodox is a feature documentary film that began in 2004, when Anna Wexler and Nadja Oertelt were undergrads studying neuroscience at MIT. It took the filmmakers nine years to complete the film, which offers an unprecedented look at the Modern Orthodox Jewish community in America and at the phenomenon of religious transformation during the gap year when yeshiva high school graduates are sent to Israel for a year of additional religious studies before they enter college. During that year some students may adopt additional religious restrictions not practiced at home that can extend to even foregoing attending college. The extreme form of this transformation, popularly termed “flipping out” was a major factor in [Anna's](#) decision to study and document the year in Israel.

Her resulting film, [“Unorthodox.”](#) grapples with, among others, the question of what compels certain students to flip out, and follows closely the religious development of three gap year students from the NY tri-state area before, during and after their year in Israel. But in the process of making the film Anna also becomes engaged in religious self-examination and questioning of her own. So, in effect the film has four subjects with the director as a character in her own film. This film is disquieting, it will make you think.

Director Anna Wexler will join us as guest speaker in apres film Q&A

Saturday, November 22, 2014, 8:00 PM

**Utopia Jewish Center
64-41 Utopia Parkway, Flushing, New York 11365**

Reservations: (718) 461-8347

Admission: \$12.00

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