

Print Current Page

WBBM 780 - Chicago's #1 source for local news, traffic and weather

[E-Mail Story](#) [Print Story](#) [Share This](#)

Posted: Thursday, 29 October 2009 1:47PM

Batter up! Film fest screens 'Holyland Hardball'

Regine Schlesinger Reporting
WBBM Newsradio 780

CHICAGO (WBBM) -- When the Chicago Festival of Israeli Cinema opens tonight, one of the movies being screened is a documentary about a failed attempt to bring baseball to Israel. It's called "Holyland Hardball."

Documentary filmmaker Brett Rapkin says the idea for baseball in Israel began with one man. "A guy named Larry Baras who had made his living creating something called, 'The Unholy Bagel,' which was a bagel pre-stuffed with cream cheese, had this epiphany when he was at a minor league baseball game in Massachusetts, 'what if he could bring that atmosphere to Israel?'"

The question was: If you build it, will they come? By two and a half years ago, it was opening day in the Holy Land as the Israeli baseball league was born. Its managers included some former American major leaguers including Ken Holtzman who once played for the Cubs, and an odd assortment of players. Rapkin says audiences have expressed surprise at two aspects of the film, "Holyland Hardball".

Rapkin says while the Israeli baseball league has folded for now, the dream lives on.

Holyland Hardball is one of the movies being shown at the Chicago Festival of Israeli Cinema which runs through November 8th.

More information at...

www.chicagofestivalofisraelicinema.org/index.html
<http://holylandhardball.com/>

Contents of this site are Copyright 2009 by WBBM.

Print Current Page