

West of Hester Street, a docudrama about Jewish immigrants settling in America's heartland in the early 1900s, interweaves the Galveston Movement with a warm personal story of one immigrant and his family. Faced with poverty and death, millions of Eastern European Jews poured into America in the early 1900s. They crowded into ghettos along the Eastern seaboard. Jewish leaders grew concerned that the U.S. government would soon close its doors to these new immigrants. They devised a plan to bring thousands of immigrants through the port of Galveston, Texas to settle them throughout America's heartland. This plan became known as the "GALVESTON MOVEMENT". There were even some unexpected results. "I told them I was a blacksmith," said one greenhorn. "So who knew from a blacksmith? I had to say something. So I became a peddler. Peddler. . .shmeddler, if it earned me an honest living, I'd do it." With great warmth and humor, the documentary interweaves the dramatized events of the Galveston Movement with the story of a young Jewish peddler who journeys from Russia to Texas.

The late Sam Jaffe narrates the immigrant's heart-warming story.

Cynthia Salzman Mondell is an award-winning filmmaker and playwright who believes that films can make a difference in people's lives. Some of her personal documentaries include **Louie, Louie: A Portrait in Parkinson's**, the personal journey of her family's struggle to cope with their father's 30-year battle with the debilitating effects of Parkinson's disease. and **The Ladies Room**, about the secret world of women's restrooms, and **The Ladies Room**, about the secret world of women's restrooms, She just completed IN HER SHOES- about incarcerated women at the Dallas County Jail's art program who look at where they've been, where they are and where they are going through their shoes. She is currently working on the film **SOLE SISTERS** that explores women's identity told through their relationship with their shoes. Her play **SHOE CONFESSIONS** was performed at the Festival for Independent Theatre. **Allen Mondell** has worked in films and television as a writer, producer and director for 50 years. He began his career as a newspaper reporter in Baltimore and then went to work for Westinghouse Broadcasting in Baltimore (WJZ-TV) as a writer/director of documentary films. Allen spent five years at Dallas public television station KERA-TV in producing documentaries and special programs. He taught in the Peace Corps in West Africa after graduating from Williams College. Allen is currently working on two films: **THE BATTLE FOR OUR NEIGHBORHOOD** chronicles over ten years of the major impact of development in the neighborhoods along Henderson Avenue in Dallas. **THE AFRICAN AMERICAN ODYSSEY OF JOHN KIZELL** recounts the life of a slave brought from Africa to Charleston who, after the American Revolution, returns to Africa to fight slavery and the slave trade. Highlights from the body of their work include: **Films from the Sixth Floor**, six films about the life, death and legacy of President John F. Kennedy shown daily at The Sixth Floor Museum at Dealey Plaza; **The Monster Among Us**, a documentary about the rise of anti-Semitism in Europe today; and **A Fair to Remember**, a social history of the great State Fair of Texas, that aired on public television stations throughout Texas. This film was also selected by the US State Department as one of 30 American documentaries to represent the United States in foreign countries. **A Reason To Live**, a documentary about depression and suicide among young adults 15-24 years old, won the prestigious CINE Golden Eagle, for excellence in documentary filmmaking. **Sisters of '77**, documenting the story of the first federally funded National Women's Conference in Houston in 1977, aired nationwide on the award-winning public television series, Independent Lens.