



# Movies With Spirit

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## 2015–2016 Calendar

**Sept. 19, 42 (2013), Fair Street Reformed Church, 209 Fair St., Kingston** — An inspiring, true-life story of Jackie Robinson, who breaks baseball's "color line" in 1947 to become the first African-American to play Major League Baseball in the modern era. The film stars Chadwick Boseman as Robinson and Harrison Ford as Brooklyn Dodgers owner Branch Rickey, who signs Robinson. Robinson, a second baseman, faces racism from opponents and even from some teammates, but doesn't react in kind. Instead, No. 42 lets his talent on the field do the talking, ultimately winning over fans and teammates, silencing critics and paving the way for others to follow. *"A stirring, straightforward and ultimately soaring portrayal of Robinson's historic entry into Major League Baseball."* — The Washington Post. *Rated PG-13.*

**Oct. 17, COUNTING BACKWARDS (2007), Flowing Spirit Healing/Woodstock Sufi Center, 33 Mill Hill Road, Woodstock** — April Winney directs this funny, emotional and finely observed romantic drama that frees the mind and questions its choices. When career-driven Joe (Ben Montague) is diagnosed with leukemia on the eve of a big promotion, he begins to re-evaluate his life. As he tries to find the passion he pushed aside years ago, an uncanny relationship with Claire (Elaine Robinson), the fun-loving woman of his dreams, sets the stage for an imaginative, inspiring journey through what life can be if one is willing to fight for it. Winner of seven film-festival awards. *"Should leave you smiling, thinking and seeing more of the possibilities of the world."* — Internet Movie Database. *Not rated.*

**Nov. 21, SON OF THE BRIDE (EL HIJO DE LA NOVIA) (2001), Christ Episcopal Church, 20 Carroll St., Poughkeepsie** — In this touching comedy drama, Rafael (Ricardo Darín) is a 42-year-old, self-absorbed restaurateur. He's divorced, with a young daughter and an adoring girlfriend. He's the polar opposite of his unflappable father, Nino (Hector Alterio), whose dedication to his wife, Norma (Norma Aleandro), confounds Rafael. Norma, who has Alzheimer's disease, lives in a nursing home, and Nino visits her daily. Her eyes shine, then go dull, as she vacillates between childlike innocence and inexplicable bursts of anger. Everything changes when Rafael has a heart attack. He agrees to help his father with a plan he had dismissed as a crazy scheme: a church wedding for his parents after 44 years of marriage. This leads to the joys and tensions of family ties in all their charming messiness. Winner of 32 critic and film-festival awards. *"One of the best films of the year."* — USA Today. *Spanish with English subtitles. Rated R.*

**Dec. 18, 4 LITTLE GIRLS (1997), New Progressive Baptist Church, 8 Hone St., Kingston** — Spike Lee's compelling documentary about a deeply sorrowful and pivotal event in the civil rights movement recounts the Sept. 15, 1963, bombing of the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Ala., which killed four girls, ages 11 to 14, attending Sunday school. The girls were in the basement changing into their choir robes for a sermon titled "A Love That Forgives" when 15 sticks of dynamite under the church's front steps exploded. The FBI concluded the bombing had

been committed by four known Ku Klux Klansmen, but no one was prosecuted until 1977. The award-winning film sketches the institutionalized oppression blacks faced. It mixes archival footage and photos with loving, insightful interviews with the slain girls' parents, siblings, neighbors and friends, and with key civil rights leaders of the time, including the Revs. Fred Shuttlesworth, Andrew Young, James Bevel, John Cross and Jesse Jackson. Also interviewed are former "CBS Evening News" anchorman Walter Cronkite and former Alabama Gov. George Wallace. *"There isn't an ounce of flab or hype, and the story it tells is profoundly affecting."* — Chicago Reader. *Not rated.*

**Jan. 16, STILL DREAMING (2014), Woodstock Jewish Congregation, 1682 Glasco Turnpike, Woodstock** — In this tender, funny and thought-provoking documentary, a group of elderly former Broadway actors and other performers living at the Lillian Booth Actors Home in Englewood, N.J., put on a play at the urging of the home's administrators, who see this as an opportunity to boost the residents' quality of life. The play is "A Midsummer Night's Dream," and before long, the worlds of the nursing home and Shakespeare's enchanted forest begin to mirror each other. The play and its rehearsals also reawaken and reconnect these thespians to each other and to vital parts of their past. *"A gentle soul-stirrer."* — The Village Voice. *Not rated.*

**Feb. 20, THE YEAR DOLLY PARTON WAS MY MOM (2011), Old Dutch Church, 272 Wall St., Kingston** — In this coming-of-age comedy drama, Elizabeth Alison Gray (Julia Stone), an 11-year-old suburban girl living in the central Canadian province of Manitoba in 1976, discovers she was adopted and becomes convinced country singer Dolly Parton is her biological mother. Determined to get back to her "roots," Elizabeth runs away from home on a bicycle and embarks on an epic quest south of the border to find Parton and seek out her true identity. Elizabeth's adoptive mother (Macha Grenon) realizes she hadn't done her confused daughter any favors by hiding the truth of her adoption from the girl and searches desperately for Elizabeth in the hope of getting a second chance at becoming a real family. *"A wonderfully low-key but engaging movie about identity."* — Jam! Movies. *Rated PG.*

**March 19, LISTEN TO YOUR HEART (2010), Episcopal Church of the Messiah, 6436 Montgomery St., Rhinebeck** — Struggling New York City songwriter Danny Foster (Kent Moran) never dreamed he'd fall in love with a woman who couldn't hear his music. But then he meets Ariana (Alexia Rasmussen), a privileged girl from Greenwich, Conn., who lost her hearing in childhood — and unfortunately cannot hear the music she inspires Danny to write. After falling in love against the wishes of her controlling mother (Cybill Shepherd), Ariana, who goes by the name of "Sam," is torn between hanging onto the shelter her mother provides and fighting for a love she feels could change her life. And when tragedy strikes, Sam and Danny must trust in the power of their love, and together discover just how important it is to "listen to your heart." *"An emotional roller-coaster ride. You'll laugh a lot, but be sure to have a few tissues handy as you experience this inspirational story."* — Under the Radar. *Rated PG.*

**April 16, CLIFFY (2013), Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church, 22 Livingston St., Kingston** — Set against the backdrop of the early 1980s, this inspirational film, based on a true story, retraces the extraordinary transformation of Cliff Young (Kevin Harrington) from an unknown potato farmer to Australia's most unlikely sports hero after he wins a 550-mile footrace from Sydney to Melbourne. When the race starts, no one pays attention to Cliffy. He doesn't run properly; his gait is more of a staggering shuffle than a run. The pro athletes know it will take about a week to finish the race: They will run about 18 hours a day and sleep the remaining six. But Cliffy, not knowing the protocol, keeps shuffling through the night, eventually leaving the professionals behind. By the third night it is apparent something extraordinary is about to happen. Cliffy stops only to eat and for bathroom breaks. The journey takes him five days 15 hours and a few minutes, cutting almost two days off the record for any previous run between Sydney and Melbourne. *"To paraphrase the great American writer Mark Twain, Young's story is so improbable it does not read like history but like the most beautiful of lies."* — The Australian. *Not rated.*

**May 21, ME AND EARL AND THE DYING GIRL (2015), St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 163 Main St., New Paltz** — In this award-winning comedy drama, Thomas Mann plays Greg Gaines, an awkward high school senior whose mother (Connie Britton) forces him to spend time with Rachel (Olivia Cooke), a classmate he hasn't spoken to since kindergarten, because the girl was just diagnosed with leukemia. Neither Greg nor Rachel wants the other's company, but they eventually warm to each other and develop a sincere platonic connection. Greg also introduces Rachel to his longtime friend Earl (Ronald Cyler II), with whom he has long spent time making short films parodying popular movies. The boys share the films with her. As Rachel's condition worsens and she begins chemotherapy, Greg spends less time at school and more time caring for her. The film is about growing up, facing death, making and losing friends, and other rites of passage, but it's also, more immediately, about hanging out, wasting time and succumbing to confusion. Winner of the 2015 Sundance Grand Jury Prize and the Audience Award. *"A must-see — and one of the best films of the year."* — St. Louis Post-Dispatch. *Rated PG-13.*

**June 18, MY NAME IS KHAN (2010), Vivekananda Retreat, Ridgely, 101 Leggett Road, Stone Ridge** — Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan plays an Indian in the United States struggling with what he considers a double whammy of having Asperger's syndrome and being a Muslim man in the post-9/11 world. Khan plays Rizvan Khan, who is on the road in a quest to meet President Obama to deliver the message, "My name is Khan, and I am not a terrorist." As he travels, Khan wins people over through a loving personality and messages of goodwill. *"Riotously overstuffed and enormously enjoyable."* — Variety. *Rated PG-13.*

**July 16, WILD TALES (RELATOS SALVAJES) (2014), Congregation Emanuel of the Hudson Valley (Temple Emanuel), 243 Albany Ave., Kingston** — This delightfully deranged, award-winning black comedy offers up a scandalous, often unsettlingly funny exploration of violent, vengeful human behavior in times of stress. The churning men and women in Damián Szifron's anthology of six short stories cross the thin line that separates civilization from barbarism. Whether pushed a lot or just a little — by a lover's betrayal or a car in front of you that won't let you pass — all the characters are eager to do the worst to someone else as they cede to the undeniable pleasure of losing control. *"Six tales of apocalyptic revenge. . . . One of the year's best films."* — Time magazine. *Spanish with English subtitles. Rated R.*

**Aug. 20, ANGEL'S PERCH (2013), Reformed Church of Port Ewen, 160 Salem St., Port Ewen** — Successful Pittsburgh architect Jack (J.T. Arbogast) is on the verge of winning a career-changing contract when the phone rings and he learns his grandmother Polly (Joyce Van Patten), who has Alzheimer's disease, was found wandering outside her house in Cass, W.Va., where Jack grew up. Jack packs a bag, jumps into his car and drives the 200 miles to see her. But what he thought would be a two-day, under-the-radar trip becomes much more when he learns she won't be allowed into an assisted-living facility. Torn between his career opportunity, caring for his last living relative and discovering his own painful childhood memories, Jack's carefully constructed life starts to unravel. And when he finally reveals a dark secret to an old childhood friend, he is forced to choose between standing still or facing his pain and moving forward. *"Independent filmmaking at its finest."* — The Long and Winding Road. *Not rated.*

*Each screening begins at 7 p.m. and is followed by refreshments and a facilitated discussion. Evenings end around 10 p.m. A \$5 contribution is suggested for moviegoers over age 12.*

*The series is organized by Gerry Harrington and has no religious affiliation.*

**For more information, contact Gerry at [gerryharrington@mindspring.com](mailto:gerryharrington@mindspring.com) or at 845-389-9201. Film and series details are also available at [movieswithspirit.com](http://movieswithspirit.com) and at [facebook.com/MoviesWithSpirit](https://www.facebook.com/MoviesWithSpirit).**