

SYNAGOGUE OF ANCESTRAL COMMITMENTS

[Synagogue of Ancestral Commitments](#) (2025, 100 min, USA, Brazil, Portugal. Dir. Alex Minkin) is a poetic documentary about Brazilian Jews who explore their spiritualities through Afro-Brazilian ancestral rituals.



Brazilian artist Andre Feitosa discovered that his family comes from the Indigenous, enslaved Africans and Jews, forcibly converted by the Inquisition. Some of his ancestors were tortured by their slave owners, yet others burned alive for their Jewish faith, others expelled from Europe, then wandered around Brazil, changing their names, and hiding their past.

Andre creates a community called "Synagogue of ancestral commitments" as a form of sacred healing art that combines Judaism and Afro-Brazilian religions.

"Brazilian culture is highly therapeutic for the Jews, as it is an excellent antidote for their historical traumas."

- Bernardo Sorj



[Alex Minkin](#), the documentary producer, is a visual anthropologist, cultural activist and director of Ticun Brasil. Since 2012 he is focusing his research on the intersections between Jewish and Brazilian spiritualities. Alex lectured at Columbia University, NYU, Hebrew University, conferences and cultural centers in the US, Brazil, and Israel. Minkin's first documentary [Urban Orishas](#) (2022), about Brazilian art and religion in New York, was an official selection of Heritales and Rendezvous Film Festivals.



Professor [Andrea Kogan](#), PhD in Religious Sciences from PUC-SP, author of the first study of interactions of Jewish and Spiritist identities in Brazil *Jewish Spiritism* (2018). Andrea is academic assistant at the Laboratory of Politics, Behavior and Media at the São Paulo Foundation/PUC-SP – LABÔ, where she is also coordinator of the research group on Death and After-Death and researcher at the Contemporary Judaism group.



[André Feitosa](#), artist, cultural producer and researcher of the Brazilian collective unconscious, André Feitosa holds a PhD in Contemporary Art (University of Coimbra, 2021). Graduated in Psychology with complementary training in Play Therapy, he is part of the team of facilitators of the AULA-LUZ Project under the guidance of Prof. Dr. Pablo Manye, aimed at providing basic training on colors to children between 6 and 12 years old through the art



Professor [Jonathan Schorsch](#) teaches Jewish religious and intellectual history at Universität Potsdam where he is a chair of Institut für Jüdische Theologie. Jonathan is the author of numerous books, including *Hidden Lives of Jews and Africans: Underground Societies in the Iberian Atlantic World* (Markus Wiener Publishers, 2019) and *Jews and Blacks in the Early Modern World* (Cambridge University Press, 2004)

MONDAY 16, JUNE, 18:00 UNIVERSITY OF POTSDAM, SCHOOL OF JEWISH
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