



# «The Rock and the Star»

## Brazilian Jewish History Documentary

Introduced by Brazilian film director Kátia Mesel

**Tuesday, April 2, 2019**  
**6:30 PM | Program Room**

FIRST COME, FIRST SEATED



New York  
Public  
Library

**Mid-Manhattan Library at 42<sup>nd</sup> Street**  
476 Fifth Avenue (at 42<sup>nd</sup> Street), New York, NY 10018  
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***The Rock and the Star***, Brazil, 2011, documentary (85 min.), directed by Kátia Mesel, who will join us at the screening. In Portuguese with English subtitles.

The result of over a decade of research, this documentary tells the story of the first Jewish colony in the Americas, in Recife, Brazil, during and following the Inquisition.

Throughout the 16th century and especially during the Dutch colonial presence in Brazil, Recife was the most important city of the New World, due to its safe and welcoming harbor and its proximity to Europe. For a long time, it was the only place that offered religious freedom for Jews fleeing the Inquisition. There, in Recife, they founded the first synagogue in the Americas.

This film traces the history of the Jews from Recife to the Port of New Amsterdam, where 23 of them arrived in 1654 to establish the first Jewish community in North America.



This screening of ***The Rock and the Star*** marks **Kátia Mesel's** 50-year film career. A pioneer of the cinema in the state of Pernambuco, Kátia Mesel has created more than 300 audiovisual works. For this documentary, Ms. Mesel worked for 15 years, researching and filming in Brazil, USA, Holland, France, Spain, Portugal and Curaçao. The film includes more than 30 interviews, 20 historical reconstructions, 1000+ still photos and drawings.



This event is offered in partnership with **Ticún Brasil**, an NGO for art, spirituality and volunteering in Brazil.

Since 2008, Ticún creates mutual inspirations for Brazilian and international artists via innovative cultural programs in Brazil and New York.

<http://ticunbrasil.com>

Ticún Brasil activities range from volunteering in favelas to studies of Jewish spirits in Afro-Brazilian spirit possession religions and poetry readings in Rio de Janeiro and New York. The name comes from “Tikun Olam” (תיקון עולם), which means “repairing the world” in Hebrew. Alex Minkin, leading Ticún from New York, is an independent scholar and social activist, focusing his research on Brazilian culture since 1996.

He has published his research in leading periodicals such as *Forward*, *Sounds and Colours*, *Jewish Currents*, *Revista Antropológicas (Brazil)* and has lectured at the universities, libraries and Jewish Cultural centers in the US and Brazil.

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*This event is subject to change or cancellation.*



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