Pearl Gluck is an award-winning documentary filmmaker. Raised in a Hasidic home in New York, Gluck broke from her community and turned to film as a way to narrate the fragments of post-modern Jewish identity. She will be at Smith to screen and discuss two of her films.

4:30-6:00 pm
AHEYM (HOMEWARD):
The Adventure to Rescue the Last Yiddish Stories of Eastern Europe

In 2003, a historian and a linguist set out to collect as many Yiddish stories as they could find as told by people still living in their Eastern European hometowns. The film includes approximately 800 hours of Yiddish-language interviews with 350 individuals, most born between 1900 and 1930. It is one of the most ambitious ethnographic projects in contemporary Jewish life.

7:30-10:00 pm
DIVAN: A Rebel's Quest for a Mystical Couch and Personal Reinvention

To reclaim an ancestral couch upon which esteemed Hasidic rabbis slept, Pearl Gluck travels from Brooklyn to her roots in Hungary. Along the way a colorful cast of characters gets involved: a couch exporter, her ex-communist cousin in Budapest, a pair of matchmakers, and a renegade group of formerly ultra-Orthodox Jews. Divan is a visual parable that offers the possibility of personal reinvention and cultural re-upholstery.

"At once a precocious autobiography, vivid travelogue through back-of-beyond Eastern Europe... and a sly wonder-tale."

- J. Hoberman, VILLAGE VOICE

Co-sponsored by the Smith College Lecture Committee, the Program in Jewish Studies, the Program in Film Studies, the Archives Concentration, and the Yiddish Book Center Cultural Fellows Program.