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## **MEDIA ALERT:**

# **2015 ROVING EYE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL FEATURES SPEAKER SERIES ON THE JEWISH EXPERIENCE AND AWARD- WINNING PROGRAM OF INTERNATIONAL CINEMA**

**WHAT:** The RWU Spring Jewish Experience Series at the 10th Annual Roving Eye International Film Festival

**WHEN:** April 14, 19, 2015

**WHERE:** Roger Williams University, 1 Old Ferry Road, Bristol, RI

**WHO:** FLICKERS: Rhode Island International Film Festival (RIIFF) and Roger Williams University (RWU)

**HOW MUCH:** This is a Free Event

**WHY:** Annual April programming that focuses on the Jewish Experience in film, arts and culture.

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(BRISTOL, RHODE ISLAND) - From cutting-edge documentaries to narrative films from across the globe, the **10th Annual Roving Eye International Film Festival** is a portal for discovery to film-lovers throughout the region. The popular and acclaimed event, celebrating international cinema and artists. Every year, the Festival produces a popular side bar that provides a focus on the Jewish Experience through short films, documentary, media and guest speakers.

This year, the **RWU Spring Jewish Experience Series** will be held on **April 14 and 19th** at the University's Bristol campus. Ten films will be screened during the Jewish Experience Series complemented by discussions with visiting artists and scholars. All programming will be free to the general public.

For a full listing and film descriptions, go to the Festival's website: [http://www.film-festival.org/RovingEye\\_JewishExperience15SPRING.php](http://www.film-festival.org/RovingEye_JewishExperience15SPRING.php)

## **2015 RWU SPRING JEWISH EXPERIENCE SERIES SCHEDULE:**

### **TUESDAY, APRIL 14th:**

5:00 p.m.

**Location:** Global Heritage Hall, Room 01

Guest Speaker, Israeli filmmaker, **Yonathan Friesem.**

Hosted by the **Rev. Nancy Soukup**, RWU Multifaith Chaplain.

### **KEYS OF HEAVEN** (Paratiisin Avaimet)

Directed by: Hamy Ramezan | 28 min. | 2014, Finland, Turkey

Iran, 1984. Homeless brothers Majid (15) and Adel (11) try to survive their daily lives in a war-torn country. They attend school and work in their spare time, but life gets harder day-by-day.

### **DAILY BREAD**

Directed by: Betsy Tsai | 9 min. | 2015, USA

In the middle of night, Omer and Yoni, two Israeli Jewish brothers, encounter Khalid, a Palestinian boy from the West Bank. A fight ensues, resulting in a broken leg. The boys are uncertain of what to do. There are glimpses of the influential family members in the boys' lives, from a recent IDF veteran, an ex-prisoner brother, and parents who are often at odds about how to raise their children in a conflict zone.

### **ECHAD MISHLOSHA** (One Out of Three)

Directed by: Sivan Ben Ari | 55 min. | 2014, Israel

Ricki divorced her husband three years ago. Together with her daughter Noor, she moved in with her elder brother Yakir and his partner Ran. That temporary living arrangement became an especially alternative family when Ricki, her brother and his partner decide to have a child together and become a parenting trio. They face many challenges along the way and are forced to create their own family rules. Documented over the course of three years, this unique relationship raises fascinating questions about the conventional family.

### About our **Guest Speaker**, Israeli filmmaker, **Yonty Freisem**:

**Yonathan Friesem** is an award-winning producer and media educator from Israel. He is the manager of the Media Education Lab at the Harrington School of communication and Media, the University of Rhode Island. As part of his doctoral research Yonathan studies the psychological and sociological effects of youth media. His goal to bridge cultures around the world is being realized in the Harrington School community media outreach with youth video production initiatives - starting fifteen years ago working with Arab and Jews adolescents till his recent workshop with First Star URI Academy with RI foster kids.

### **SUNDAY, APRIL 19<sup>th</sup>**

1:00 p.m.

**Location:** Mary Tefft White Cultural Center, RWU Library

Hosted by the **Rev. Nancy Soukup**, RWU Multifaith Chaplain

### **PASTRAMI**

Directed by: Richard Böhringer | 7 min. | 2014, Germany, Israel

Hearing the rocket sirens, an Israeli family stops their car at the site of the road and ducks for cover. The father realizes, that he has to find an explaining for this unusual event to his scared son.

### **JOSEF ET AIMÉE**

Directed by: Ben Shirinian | 14 min. | 2014, Canada

Josef and Aimee is a magical childhood love story about two children orphaned in the south of France during WWII. In this story of childhood love, loss and struggle, a young boy's quest to reunite with a cherished friend takes him on a journey where he finds so much more.

### **WHAT CHEER?**

Directed by: Michael Slavens | 17 min. | 2014, USA

After the sudden passing of his wife, Stan (Richard Kind) finds himself in a state of shock. He tries to ignore his pain but finds himself followed by inescapable grief, or rather, followed by the inescapable What Cheer? Brigade, a 20-piece brass and percussion band drowning out his world with boisterous, ear-numbing song.

## **FLORY'S FLAME**

Directed by: Curt Fissel | 58 min. | 2014, Bosnia, Herzegovina, Croatia, Italy, Spain, USA  
Flory's Flame weaves the life story of 90 year old US National Heritage Fellow musician Flory Jagoda with her September 2013 Celebration Concert at the US Library of Congress. The combined personal and musical overviews initially transport the viewer to the roots of Spanish Jewish life before the Inquisition, often considered the golden age for this community. The documentary's path continues in the former Yugoslavia, where the traditions were preserved by Flory's musical family for centuries after the expulsion of the Jews from Spain in 1492.

3:00 p.m.

**Location:** Mary Tefft White Cultural Center, RWU Library  
Hosted by the **Rev. Nancy Soukup**, RWU Multifaith Chaplain

## **IN BEN'S FOOTSTEPS (HaDerech Shel Ben)**

Directed by: Noam Oz-Setter | 55 min. | 2014, Israel, Mongolia  
On August 9th 2006 a platoon of Israeli paratroopers operating in Dabel Miri, a Lebanese village, was hit by a Cornet missile fired by Hezbollah. Nine soldiers were killed. Ben Sela was one of them. He planned to devour the world but managed only a small taste. One of the formative journeys in his short life was to Mongolia, a year before the war in Lebanon. Ben and Avsha, riding horses, crossed the challenging Mongolian wilderness. Six years after his death his parents, joined by Avsha, are planning to follow his journey.

## **Draw Back the Curtain**

Directed by: Shir Bodner | 56 min. | 2014, USA  
Twenty-five years have passed since the fall of the Iron Curtain and the arrival of former Soviet Union refugees to Richmond, Virginia. After decades of closed door policies under communism, liberalization in the 1980's allowed for Jewish emigration. With over a million emigres, mass resettlement efforts ensued in the United States. Draw Back the Curtain captures the experiences of resettlement and the Richmond community volunteers who welcomed them. The documentary explores dimensions of immigration, acculturation, and identity while weaving through the stories of thirty individuals.

5:30 p.m.

**Location:** Global Heritage Hall, 01  
Hosted by the **Rev. Nancy Soukup**, RWU Multifaith Chaplain

## **MUSIC AND ART AS CATALYSTS FOR CHANGE**

Director **Michele Noble** will be in attendance and participate in a Q&A with Guest Host, **Andrew Lund**.

### **Journey 4 Artists**

Directed by Michele Noble | 99 min. | 2014, USA  
Journey 4 Artists is a unique documentary feature that demonstrates how the power of music has the ability to elevate both the performer and audience beyond divergent religious, political, and ideological boundaries.

In this documentary, world music serves as a catalyst for four artists from Jewish and Muslim cultures who come together and share their extraordinary passion and purpose which is to make music that transcends the discordance of our complex world. We experience their journey through the eyes of a child as he witnesses their masterful performances of over twenty world music folk songs sung in English, Hebrew, Yiddish, Ladino, Russian, Bosnian, and French.

Their incredible performances of their beloved world music was recorded live as if in an intimate European artists' salon. Each of the 4 detail their own persona; journey as they give their in depth, heartfelt perspective about art, music, culture and their lifelong commitment to furthering humanity and peace.

The Journey 4 Artists are: **Theodore Bikel** - Austrian born Jewish folksinger/activist/Oscar nominated actor Tamara Brooks - Gypsy born Jewish pianist/conductor Shura Lipovsky - Dutch born Jewish activist/dancer/singer Merima Kljuco - Bosnian born concert accordionist/composer.

Journey 4 Artists is an authentic, poignant and sometimes difficult exploration of the human spirit through an artful blend of music, personal narrative and visual history, all of which demonstrates how far we all have come while encouraging us to continue our movement forward.

#### About our **Guest Speakers:**

**Michele Noble** graduated from the USC film school and is a screenwriter, film director and producer. Over the years, she has worked with both independent producers and studio producers/executives at Universal, Warner Bros., and Paramount. Ms. Noble has also directed stage plays produced in Los Angeles, Westport and London. In addition, Noble served as the associate producer/director on Emmy award winning documentaries for network television which dealt with topics such as teenage alcoholism, poverty and aging. She has also worked as an assistant director and film editor on independent feature films guiding many first time directors through the nuts and bolts of filmmaking.

Ms. Noble won honors at the Deauville Film Festival in France for the independent feature film, *Runaway Dreams*, written by award winning British screenwriter, John Hopkins (*Smiley's People*, *Thunderball*, *Hiroshima*). In 2003, she formed Noble Alberghetti Films with her producing partner, Paul Alberghetti. Since then they have developed several film and television projects such as the feature screenplays, *Fallen Eagle* with Peabody award winner producer/writer, Ronald D. Moore (*Battlestar Galactica*), and *No Good Deed* with Emmy Award winning actor/producer Noah Wyle (*ER*). Most recently, Noble and Alberghetti produced together the documentary, *Journey 4 Artists* and the experimental film, *New York Summer Project*.

**Andrew Lund**, a filmmaker and entertainment lawyer, Andrew is an Associate Professor and Director of the Integrated Media Arts MFA Program in the Film & Media Department at Hunter College of the City University of New York and a Faculty Associate at the Roosevelt House Public Policy Institute; he is also a faculty member of the Film Studies Department at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington and has taught in the Graduate Film Division of Columbia University, where he received J.D., M.F.A. and B.A. degrees. *Brief Reunion*, a feature film that Andrew produced and co-edited, won the top prize for narrative filmmaking at the 2011 UFVA conference and the Audience Award for Best Film at New York's 2011 Gotham International Film Festival. *My Last Day Without You*, on which Andrew served as executive producer, recently won the top producing honors at the 2011 Brooklyn International Film Festival and will be released theatrically in Europe this fall. Andrew is the Executive Producer of nine feature films, including *The Hungry Ghosts*, written and directed by Michael Imperioli; *Vanaja*, named by Roger Ebert as one of the top five foreign films of 2007, and *Arranged*, an international hit that Variety called "a pure pleasure to watch" Andrew has also written and directed five award winning short films. In addition to worldwide festival screenings and television broadcasts, his shorts are included in film textbooks, DVD compilations, and distributed theatrically and non-theatrically. Andrew founded and curates *CinemaTalks*, the independent film screening and discussion series, and he created the Short Film Repository, which houses educational extras that support short filmmaking. Andrew's writing on film includes an essay, "What's a Short Film, Really?" in "Swimming Upstream: A Lifesaving Guide to Short Film Distribution" by Sharon Badal, numerous book reviews for the

journal, Film International, and two books on independent filmmaking in the works for Peter Lang Publishers.

7:30 p.m.

**Location:** Global Heritage Hall, Atrium

### **CLOSING NIGHT RECEPTION**

Join as we conclude our celebration of the 10th Anniversary of the Roving Eye International Film Festival, a unique collaboration between Roger Williams University and Flickers: Rhode Island International Film Festival. All programming for the Festival has been produced by students in the Curation and Film Production Class that includes: *Bernadette Benman, Laura Burchett, Eli DeFaria, Hannah Marie DuPont, Clayton Durant, Hayley Durno, Olivia Fritz, Ryan Harper, Jeremy Marsh, Madison May, Gabriela Medeiros, Christian Moran, Stephanie Nisbet, Timmy Sclafani, Nicole Siino, Christopher Wade, Ian Waldron* with support from *Andrew Burgess, Alex Campbell, Francis Ferdinand* and *Ronald Scofield*.

For more information, contact the **Spiritual Life Program** and **Hillel** at Roger Williams University, email [nsoukup@rwu.edu](mailto:nsoukup@rwu.edu). Directions to Roger Williams University can be found at [www.rwu.edu](http://www.rwu.edu)

The **RWU Spring Jewish Experience Series** of the **10th Annual Roving Eye International Film Festival** is presented in partnership with *the Edwin S. Sorforenko Foundation, FLICKERS: Rhode Island International Film Festival, the RWU Department of Communication the RWU Feinstein College of Arts and Sciences, Dean Robert Eisinger, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, Roberta Adams, the RWU Film Production Collaborative, the RWU Screenwriter's Guild, RWU Hillel, and the Spiritual Life Office.*

To see a listing of this year's programming and to learn more about the **Roving Eye International Film Festival**, go to: <http://www.film-festival.org/RovingEye.php>

### **ABOUT ROGER WILLIAMS UNIVERSITY:**

**Roger Williams University**, located on the coast of Bristol, R.I., is a forward-thinking private university with 45 undergraduate majors spanning the liberal arts and the professions, where students become community-minded citizens through project-based, experiential learning. With small classes, direct access to faculty and boundless opportunity for real-world projects, RWU students develop the ability to think critically while simultaneously building the practical skills that today's employers demand. In the two years since launching its signature Affordable Excellence initiative, the University has established itself as a leader in American higher education by confronting the most pressing issues facing students and families – increasing costs that limit access to college, rising debt and the job readiness of graduates. In addition to its 4,000 undergraduates, RWU is home to more than a dozen graduate programs, a thriving School of Continuing Studies based in Providence as well as Rhode Island's only law school. For more information, go to: [www.rwu.edu](http://www.rwu.edu).

### **ABOUT FLICKERS: RHODE ISLAND INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL:**

The mission of FLICKERS: Rhode Island International Film Festival is to discover and empower filmmakers. Held in Providence, and at locations throughout the state, RIIF is one of only 19 film festivals worldwide that is a qualifying event for the Oscars in the documentary and narrative short categories. It is also New England's largest film festival. Its innovative programming, cultivated industry ties, and loyal audiences have made the Festival a strategic and desirable platform for film premieres, drawing hundreds of independent filmmakers from around the globe. The next Festival will take place **August 4-9, 2015**. For more information about the festival, please visit [www.rifilmfest.org](http://www.rifilmfest.org).

For more information about the **FLICKERS: Rhode Island International Film Festival**, running **Aug. 4-9, 2015** at the Providence Performing Arts Center (PPAC) and The Vets (formerly Veterans

Memorial Auditorium), please visit [www.RIFilmFest.org](http://www.RIFilmFest.org) or call **401.861.4445**.

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