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PHOTOS AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST:

MEDIA ALERT:

FLICKERS PARTNERS WITH ROGER WILLIAMS UNIVERSITY TO PRESENT SPRING FILM/SPEAKER SERIES ON THE JEWISH EXPERIENCE FREE PROGRAM SPONSORED BY THE EDWIN S. SOFORENKO FOUNDATION

WHAT: The Jewish Experience Program at the **12th Annual Roving Eye International Film Festival**

WHEN: April 18, 20 & 23, 2017

WHERE: Global Heritage Hall, Room 01, **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: To Celebrate The Jewish Experience Through The Art of International Filmmaking.

Roger Williams University (RWU) has partnered with the **Flickers' Rhode Island International Film Festival (RIIFF)** to present its Spring-edition of the bi-annual **Roving Eye International Film Festival**. The popular and acclaimed Festival celebrating global cinema and artists, announces its 2016 Spring sidebar program on **The Jewish Experience** through short films, documentary, media and guest speakers. This year's Jewish Experience theme is "**ARTS AND CULTURE: Storytelling Through Time**," and is presented by a grant from the **Edwin S. Soforenko Foundation**.

The event takes place **April 18, 20 & 23rd**. This year's programming explores representations of the Jewish experience in Israel, across the globe and the Holocaust through **15 premiere films**. The series is hosted by the **Rev. Nancy Hamlin Soukup**, University Multifaith Chaplain at RWU and includes a conversation with **Andrew Lund**, filmmaker /lawyer/educator. All programming will take place at Roger Williams University, Bristol, RI. **The series is free and open to the public!**

The programming for the Spring 2017 Jewish Experience Series can be found at this URL:
http://www.film-festival.org/RovingEye_JewishExperience17SPRING.php

"Through film and scholarship, this series tells the stories of the Jewish experience globally—stories of joy, sorrow, faith, a rich culture, Diasporas, fear and ultimately, hope," said the Rev. Nancy Hamlin Soukup, co-organizer of the event with Flickers.

The **Spring 2017 Jewish Experience** sidebar of the Roving Eye International Film Festival is presented in partnership with the *RI Film & the Television Office; Flickers' Rhode Island International Film Festival; Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia, Edge Media Network, the Edwin S. Soforenko Foundation; Roger Williams University Office of the Provost; the RWU Department of Communication and Graphic Design, Dean Robert Cole, RWU Feinstein College of Arts and*

**Flickers' at The Vets, 83 Park Street, Suite 5, Providence, RI 02903 United States • 401.861.4445 (f) 401.490.6735
E-mail: info@film-festival.org • Website: <http://www.RIFilmFest.org>**

Sciences; Dr. Roberta Adams, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs; the RWU Film Production Collaborative, the RWU Screenwriter's Guild, RWU Hillel, and the Spiritual Life Office.

THIS YEAR'S SCHEDULE:

TUESDAY, APRIL 18TH

5:00 p.m.

Location: Mary Tefft White Cultural Center, RWU Library at Roger Williams University

STORIES FROM THE HEART: IMMUTABLE MEMORIES

Introduced by Adjunct Professor **George T. Marshall**, the **Rev. Nancy Hamlin Soukup**, University Multifaith Chaplain, RWU with commentary by **Jake Sussman**, President of RWU Hillel.

BORDERLINE | Directed by: Dmitry Konoplov | 15 min. Israel, 2016

Oded, a worn-out drug dealer who goes for a routine exchange of packages on the Israeli border, realizes that the person across the fence is a frustrated soccer player, who can't manage to pass him his package.

EVA | Directed by: Peter Hegedus | 8 min. Australia, 2015

A Holocaust survivor's passionate perspective on the refugee crisis in Europe.

IRVING | Directed by: Rebecca Feldman | 27 min. USA, 2016

A curmudgeon from Brooklyn receives a surprise visit from a British gentleman claiming to be his son.

MUNICH '72 AND BEYOND | Directed by: Stephen Crisman | 29 min. Germany, Israel, USA, 2016

On September 5, 1972, Palestinian extremists infiltrated the athletes' dorms at the Munich Summer Olympics to take 11 Israeli athletes hostage and eventually murdered them all before being killed or captured by the German police. Award-winning filmmaker Stephen Crisman revisits that tragic day in chilling detail through new interviews with both Israelis and Palestinians, as well as family members, eyewitnesses, Olympic authorities and government officials. An intensely emotional account of the first act of modern terrorism viewed worldwide as it unfolded, Munich '72 and Beyond exposes shocking new information about the tragic events and their devastating aftermath, as well as chronicling the four-decade-long struggle to create a public memorial to the victims of the massacre.

THURSDAY APRIL 20TH

5:00 p.m.

Location: Global Heritage Hall, 01 at Roger Williams University

MEMORIES NEVER DIE

Documentary Screenings and Discussion

Introduced by the **Rev. Nancy Hamlin Soukup**, University Multifaith Chaplain, RWU.

WHEN A FLAME STANDS STILL | Directed by: Michael Mike Canon | 18 min. Germany, USA, 2015

In the midst of the Holocaust, the young couple hides in two claustrophobic bunkers that are only a wall apart. Unable to see, hear, or TOUCH one another--and with only a lamp to soften their darkness--they reminisce about their love story of the past, from when they first met, to the time they separated. As their love grows, the hatred during the Holocaust rises...and as their touch gets closer, so does the Gestapo.

THE MARGARET LAMBERT FILM | Directed by: Nina Horowitz | 25 min. Germany, USA, 2016

The world's eyes were locked on Berlin for the 1936 Summer Olympiad, allowing an opportunity for Hitler to create an image of Germany for its international guests that championed Aryan superiority. Adolf Hitler was determined to show off the true might of his regime and to this effect, would create tragedy for those he targeted. This documentary tells the story of one athlete, in particular, that was disenfranchised by Hitler's "Propaganda Games"- Gretel Bergman

Although her Olympic career was over on that fateful day in 1936, her story was far from finished. Today, in Queens, New York at the age of 102, she tells her story with the help from members of the international sports community who were all an integral part of Margaret's story. Her story and proves that against all odds, courage can triumph.

THE TWINNING REACTION | Directed by: Lori Shinseki | 54 min. USA, 2016

The Twinning Reaction is a feature-length documentary film about a tragically failed human research experiment from the 1960s, a case involving identical twins who were separated in infancy and secretly studied by psychologists for many years. The film provides an inside look at the dangers of medical arrogance, the inadequacy of laws protecting human research subjects, and the strong bonds of twinship.

Our story begins in 1960, when two prominent psychotherapists, Drs. Peter Neubauer and Viola Bernard, began a secret study involving orphaned babies from a New York City adoption agency. The doctors separated at least five sets of twins and triplets, never telling the adoptive parents their child had an "other." Researchers tested, filmed and interviewed some of the children and families for years, under the pretense of conducting an "adoption study." In truth, it was a nature versus nurture study of twins (and triplets) separated in infancy.

The Twinning Reaction tells the stories of four sets of identical twins and triplets who were separated by the Louise Wise Services adoption agency. The primary focus of the film is a pair of reunited twins, Doug and Howard, in their quest for answers about the twin study and its findings. With the help of several attorneys, the twins obtain access their own secret study files, which are sealed at the Yale University Archives. Cameras are rolling as Doug and Howard open the Pandora's Box of information about their past.

SUNDAY, APRIL 23RD

2:00 p.m.

Location: Global Heritage Hall, 01 at Roger Williams University

THE STORIES WE TELL

Documentary Screening and Director's Discussion

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

FACING THE WALL | Directed by: Alamork Marsha | 27 min. Israel, 2016

Surni, 14, wakes up to her first morning in an Israeli absorption center. She keeps her eyes and ears closed. She won't leave her bed. She does everything she can to shut out her new reality and pretend she never left Ethiopia. As the hours pass, and the light of day fades, Surni's mother, at first blind to her daughter's suffering, finds a way to reach out and help Surni say goodbye to the world they left behind.

THE MUTE'S HOUSE | Tamar Kay, Director | 31 min. Israel, 2015

A building in Israeli Hebron, which has been deserted by its Palestinian occupants, is called 'The Mute's House' by the Israeli soldiers stationed there and by the tour guides who pass by daily. The building's only occupants are a deaf woman, Sahar, and her 8-year-old son, Yousef. The family's unique story, in the midst of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, unfolds through the eyes of the young and charismatic Yousef, as he goes through his daily routine on both sides of the torn city.

NOAM | Adi Shinar, Director | 23 min. Israel, 2016

Noam, 16, an artistic introvert, can't stand being her mother's psychologist. She wants to go out for a chance to meet a boy on whom she has a crush from afar, but is forced to stay home and meet with her mother's demands. When she's had enough, Noam leaves, attempting to find somewhere else to spend the night.

FRAMED – THE ADVENTURES OF ZION MAN | Brenda Lee Lau, Director | 16 min. USA, 2016

At first young Walter was impressed by the Nazi uniforms and the powerful, handsome men who wore them, he even wanted to be them but soon learned looks are deceiving. 1933 Germany was a confusing time for a Jewish boy, coming of age in an era when nothing made sense. Why was he being bullied just because of who he was? How does a young boy survive this type of persecution? By drawing comic book heroes Walter creates a universe where he can defeat these evil predators who invaded his real world. Using both live action and animation we bring this young boys fantasy to life.

4:00 p.m.

Location: Global Heritage Hall, 01 at Roger Williams University

TRANSCENDING BOUNDARIES

Introduced by the **Rev. Nancy Hamlin Soukup**, University Multifaith Chaplain with Guest Speaker, **Andrew Lund**, 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.

MORDECHAI | Directed by: Benjamin Bee | 13 min. United Kingdom, 2016

Daniel, an ultra orthodox Jew, hasn't seen his identical twin brother Mordechai in years; Mordechai's 'life choices' were a bit too much for the family to handle. But today is the day of their father's funeral...

Mordechai is a funny and touching fable about family, faith and the roles we play.

This short film is set around a traditional ultra orthodox Jewish family in the northeast of England. It was made with help and support of the ultra orthodox community here. The film stars members of the Orthodox community acting on film for the very first time.

SEVEN MINUTES | Directed by: Assaf Machnes 14 min. Israel, 2016

In order to go home for the weekend with the rest of the platoon, a fresh IDF soldier has to complete one final task

MEMORY SONGS | Directed by: Lucy Kaye | 12 min. United Kingdom, 2016

When your memory fades, your grip on reality becomes fragile and the sense of self slowly slips away. In a synagogue hall in North West London, a group of elderly people gather to find release. Using music and song they try to reconnect with themselves. Through the poetic use of poignant personal photographs and carefully assembled voiced-over memories, this film takes us into the emotional heart of these people, coping with the onset of Dementia.

VIOLINS OF HOPE - STRINGS OF THE HOLOCAUST | Directed by: Lance Shultz | 57 min. USA/Israel, 2016

Narrated by Academy Award winning actor Adrien Brody, VIOLINS OF HOPE Strings of the Holocaust, is a 60-minute documentary featuring Israeli master violinmaker Amnon Weinstein and his efforts to restore violins recovered from the Holocaust. Some were played by Jewish prisoners in concentration camps; others belonged to the Klezmer musical culture, which was all but destroyed by the Nazis. From their amazing stories and Weinstein's mission to collect and restore the instruments comes the inspiration for this film.

ABOUT OUR GUEST SPEAKER:

Andrew Lund, 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, won the top producing honors at the 2011 Brooklyn International Film Festival and was released theatrically in Europe. 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.

You can learn more about Andrew on his website: <http://andrewlundfilms.com/>

A Reception Sponsored by RWU Spiritual Life Office will take place during the intermission.

All programming for the Festival has been produced by students in the **Curation and Film Production Class** that includes: **Hadi Alyami, Alison Cellana, Reagan Cronin, Gabriela Dinobile, Gabrielle Dougherty, Taylor Flaherty, Jacob Johnson, Alissa Livingston, Tyler McCoy, Zachary Mobrince, Brett Pollina, Kelsey Rogers, Bradley Ross, Benjamin Scheff, Elliot Sirchio** and **Nicholas Stanglewicz**.

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 in Bristol, R.I. is a leading independent, coeducational university with programs in the liberal arts and the professions, where students become community- and globally-minded citizens. With 42 academic majors, an array of co-curricular activities and study abroad opportunities on six continents, RWU is an open community dedicated to the success of students, commitment to a set of core values and providing a world-class education above all else. In the last decade, the University has achieved unprecedented successes including recognition as one of the best colleges in the nation by *Forbes*, a College of Distinction by Student Horizons, Inc. and as both a best college in the Northeast and one of the nation's greenest universities by *The Princeton Review*. For more information, go to: www.rwu.edu.

ABOUT FLICKERS' RHODE ISLAND INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL:

The **Flickers' Rhode Island International Film Festival (RIIFF)**, has secured its place in the global community as the portal for the best in international independent cinema, earning the respect of domestic and foreign filmmakers, filmgoers and trend watchers. Ranked as one of the top 10 Festivals in the United States, RIIFF is a qualifying festival for the Live Action, Documentary and Animation Short Academy Awards through its affiliation with the Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences, the Canadian Screen Awards and the British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA). There are only 6 film festivals worldwide that share this distinction and RIIFF is the only festival in New England. The Festival takes place every August. For more information, go to: www.rifilmfest.org

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