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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 11th Annual **Roving Eye International Film Festival**

WHEN: April 12, 13 & 17, 2016,

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: Shaping The Future, Reflecting the Past,**" and is presented by a grant from the **Edwin S. Soforenko Foundation**.

The event takes place **April 12, 13 & 17th**. This year's programming explores representations of the Jewish experience in Israel, across the globe and the Holocaust through 11 recent films. The series is hosted by the **Rev. Nancy Hamlin Soukup**, University Multifaith Chaplain at RWU and includes a conversation with **Brian Mayer**, cantor Temple Emanu-El, Providence, and **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 2016 Jewish Experience Series can be found at this URL:
http://www.film-festival.org/RovingEye_JewishExperience16SPRING.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 2016 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 Eisinger, RWU Feinstein College of Arts and 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 12, 2016

5:00 p.m.

Location: Global Heritage Hall, 01 at Roger Williams University

STORIES FROM THE HEART:

Documentary & Short Film Screenings

Introduced by **Kyle P. Gravel**, Creative Writing Major

Hosted by **Alice Cross**, Adjunct Professor, Communications and the **Rev. Nancy Soukup**, RWU Multifaith Chaplain

SUPERMAN ISN'T JEWISH (...AND I AM, A BIT) | Directed by: Jimmy Bemon | 30 min. France, 2014
When he finds out that it's because he's Jewish that his willy is different, young Benjamin decides to do everything he can to hide his religion and keep his secret...

MIRIAM BEERMAN: EXPRESSING THE CHAOS | Directed by: Jonathan Gruber | 53 min. USA, 2015
Miriam Beerman was born in Providence, Rhode Island in 1923 with a visual gift for the world around her. She quickly knew that painting would be her life. A recipient of two Fulbright fellowships, among numerous other honors, she had the first-ever solo female show at the Brooklyn Museum in 1971. Yet even in the art world she was challenged as a woman in another male-dominated profession.

From New England to Paris to New York, Miriam's artistic demons have led to haunting images that evoke the suffering of generations of victims. Her gripping work is housed at some of the most hallowed institutions in the world, including the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Victoria and Albert Museum in London, the Whitney Museum of American Art, the Corcoran Museum of Art, the Israel Museum in Jerusalem, the Jewish Museum in New York, Yale University, the Mint Museum, and the U.S. State Department.

At 91 years old, Miriam now lives in a residence home near her family in Washington, D.C. Her memory is not what it once was; yet she is still generating compelling and forceful art. It's one of the only things she is sure of.

The film is a memorable profile of an artist who has elevated her empathy for the plight of the world's castoffs into powerful portrayals of dignity.

Visit www.miriambeerman.com for more information on the artist.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13, 2016

5:00 p.m.

Location: Global Heritage Hall, 01 at Roger Williams University

MEMORIES NEVER DIE

Documentary Screenings and Discussion

Introduced by **Max D. Schlichtmann**, Communications Major

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

GOODBYE THERESIENSTADT | Directed by: Carl Otto Dethlefsen and Jonatan Jerichow | 58 min.
Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Israel, 2015
Over 7,000 Jews escaped from Denmark to Sweden when the occupying Germans tried to round up Danish Jews in October 1943. Yet regrettably, 470 Jewish men, women and children were captured and put into cattle cars bound for the Theresienstadt concentration camp.

Seventy years after they were miraculously rescued from Theresienstadt, six Danish Jews who were children at the time return to the concentration camp where they suffered for a year and a half, consumed by hunger, anxiety and fear of what tomorrow might bring. The six individual stories are intertwined, as the survivors tell of their failed escape to Sweden, the horrible journey to Theresienstadt, the appalling conditions in the concentration camp, and finally of their rescue from Theresienstadt in the final weeks of the war. The survival of these six people illustrates what Denmark did to save the Danish Jewish population, getting most of them to safety, and trying to protect those who were captured and interned.

ORO MACHT FREI / GOLD WILL SET YOU FREE | Directed by: Jeffrey Bonna | 70 min. Italy, USA, 2014
After Italy's Armistice with the Allied Armies (Sept 8, 1943), the Germans occupied the Italian peninsula as far south as Naples. Rome and its ancient Jewish population fell under German control. 'Oro Macht Frei' tells the story of the 9-month Nazi occupation of Rome through the testimonies of 9 Roman Jews, archival footage, family photos and the contribution of renowned historians, Alexander Stille, Susan Zuccotti, Lilliana Picciotto, Frank Coppa and Robert Katz. In addition to stories of hiding and arrest, OMF examines the period of Mussolini's Racial Laws (1938-1945) as well as the Catholic Church's response to the round-up of the Roman Jews.

SUNDAY, APRIL 17, 2016

3:00 p.m.

Location: Global Heritage Hall, 01 at Roger Williams University

THE STORIES WE TELL

Documentary Screening and Director's Discussion

Introduced by **Evan M. Mozzer**, Graduate Architecture Major

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

EINE GUTE GESCHICHTE (A Good Story) | Directed by: Martin-Christopher Bode | 20 min.
Germany, 2013

When Helga Landowsky discovers the broken jug in an antiques store near the German/Polish border, she wants to have it at any cost. But the old lady has reckoned without Jakub Lato. Because the antiquarian does not want to trade his ware for money, in exchange for the jug, he wants Helga to tell him a story. And a story she can tell. It is an experience from the second world war -- A story about pain and loss. And while Helga is still narrating, she and Jakub begin to realize that both their lives are wondrously interwoven. And that they are now, almost 70 years later, telling the story is last chapter together. Because only this way, the story can finally become a good story.

GERMAN SHEPHERD | Directed by: Nils Bergendal | 10 min. Sweden, 2014

Growing up as an American Jew with a Holocaust survivor mother, David is haunted by 'the Nazi thing', an irrational fear for Germans and an obsession with Holocaust movies. Nils Bergendal interprets David's interview into a wry animated introspection, questioning whether it's wise to look to the past for answers.

IT TAKES A SCHOOL | Directed by: Tami Gross and Maya Rothschild | 57 min. Israel, 2015

Tel Hai, ranking in the top tenth percentile of all primary schools in Israel is surprisingly situated in Kfar Shalem, one of the most distressed neighborhoods in Tel Aviv. The population consists of mostly low income and broken families, new immigrants, foreign workers and African asylum seekers. A few years ago, principal Einat Berger went on a sabbatical, feeling frustrated. Violence was surging, students' achievements were poor, and teachers' morale was low. Upon returning, Einat introduced a revolutionary approach, "the Language of Mindfulness," a method incorporating meditation techniques, Yoga practices and guided imagery adapted for children. Aiming to focus on the students' emotional well-being, to bolster their self-confidence and to help them discover and develop their talents. This is the key according to Einat's understanding to improve their academic achievements and help them forge a place for themselves in the world.

Tel Hai is one of the first schools in the world to incorporate a program such as this as part of its public education programming. Teachers are constantly incorporating these techniques in their regular classes. Now the school can hardly be recognized. A unique experiment is underway, benefiting not only the students and teachers, but even parents and the community. Parents from more affluent neighborhoods are clamoring to have their children accepted into the school. As we began to look closer at the student body, we uncovered some remarkable children with inspirational stories behind them. Our film shows the program at work, and the impact it has on them. Is there a lesson to be learned here? Can such a school become a model worldwide?

4:30 p.m.

Location: Global Heritage Hall, 01 at Roger Williams University

THE STORIES WE TELL, PART 2

Short Film Screenings and Panel Discussion

Introduced by **Marc S. Sullivan**, Graduate Architecture Major.

Hosted by **Rev. Nancy Soukup**, Multifaith Chaplain, with Guest Panelists: **Andrew Lund**, filmmaker/entertainment lawyer, and **Brian Mayer**, cantor Temple Emanu-El, Providence

PARIS ON THE WATER | Directed by: Hadas Ayalon | 29 min. Israel, 2015

Paris on the Water tells the story of a passionate woman who is imprisoned in a sick body and is forced to confront her age, her husband and the reality of her life.

WANDERING RABBI | Directed by: Henry Wiener | 14 min. USA, 2014

Wandering Rabbi follows Rabbi Marshal Klaven, a 34 year old, itinerant rabbi, as he travels across the American South, visiting a circuit of small Jewish communities, leading Shabbat services, ministering at life cycle events, and providing guidance and advice to the members of these small communities.

REVERENCE | Directed by: Collin Kornfeind | 13 min. USA, 2015

'Reverence' is a documentary short that explores the meaning and context behind branded yarmulkes and the concept of reverence in America today. From a Batman symbol to a Mets logo – this small icon of reverence has been adapted to the mainstream. 'Reverence' explores the phenomenon of custom and branded yarmulkes in Jewish-American communities, the religious norms that custom kippahs challenge in a capitalistic society, and the notion of 'fitting in' and 'standing out' within the Reform and Conservative Jewish community.

SAMUEL-613 | Directed by: Billy Lumby | 15 min. United Kingdom, 2015

The story of Shmilu, a Hasidic Jew in crisis, torn between his community and the romantic possibilities of trendy East London. This is the first fictional film made with the UK's Hasidic population, including non-professional actors and Yiddish dialogue. It explores culture clash, identity struggle and the spiritual consequences. (BAFTA 2016 Nominee for Best Short)

GUEST PANELISTS:

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.

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

Brian Mayer, cantor Temple Emanu-El, Providence

Cantor Mayer's resume is diverse and rich. He conveys Jewish knowledge through his love of chanting, teaching, composing, conducting and performing Jewish music. For the past quarter century, Cantor Mayer has led Shabbat and High Holy Day services, using well-loved cantorial melodies and teaching new tunes that have become familiar favorites. Cantor Mayer has incorporated beloved Yiddish standards and his own choral compositions into this eclectic mix.

Cantor Mayer is a respected scholar of *Hazzanut* (Jewish cantorial music) who is known nationally for his innovative, artistic and participatory music programming. He is loved for his commitment to the Temple's youth through his extraordinary Torah Tutor program, his Religious School teaching and the development of the *Kol Kesem/HaZamir* teen choir. The music program he has built at Temple Emanu-El is diverse and unique: in addition to *HaZamir*, he has established *Shir Emanu-El* and developed the Temple Emanu-El choir, two accomplished adult choirs, as well as the Shabbat *Chai* and *Kol Klezmer* bands.

In 2009, Cantor Mayer was the artistic director of the award-winning "Shining Through Broken Glass: A *Kristallnacht* Concert," a regional event which featured musicians and performers from the larger community and the actor and artist Leonard Nimoy as narrator. Cantor Mayer has also brought an exuberant spirit of musical collaboration to annual community interfaith observances, including the Martin Luther King Day community event.

Nationally, Cantor Mayer has conducted adult choirs at the annual North American Jewish Choral Festival; and *HaZamir*, the international Jewish high school choir, at Lincoln Center and Carnegie Hall.

Cantor Mayer is associate professor of Jewish Music and dean of the School of Jewish Music at Hebrew College in Boston. He taught for 14 years at the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York as an assistant professor of *Hazzanut*. Cantor Mayer was ordained at the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York, where he later earned a Doctor of Sacred Music degree.

6:15 p.m.

Location: Global Heritage Hall, Atrium

CLOSING NIGHT RECEPTION & AWARDS ANNOUNCEMENT

Join as we conclude our celebration of the **11th Annual Roving Eye International Film Festival**, a unique collaboration between Roger Williams University and Flickers' Rhode Island International Film Festival, and we announce the winners of this year's Roving Eye Awards.

All programming for the Festival has been produced by students in the Curation and Film Production Class that includes: **Ziyad M. Almutairi, Jordan A. Berry, Jenna M. Brink, Michael J. Cardi, Madeline C. Cirullo, Andre D. Courtois, Alexander M. DeLalla, Bradley S. Fagan, Joshua T. Grab, Kyle P. Gravel, Benjamin J. Horst, Zachary R. Kline, Evan M. Mozzer, Masahiro Odagawa,**

Sarah E. Reid, Stephanie L. Ressler, Christopher M. Rossi, Elle Schaffhauser, Max D. Schlichtmann, Catherine F. Smeykal, Marc S. Sullivan, and John R. Tateossian.

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.

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 Short Narrative, Documentary Short Film and Animation Short Academy Awards through its affiliation with the Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences 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 about the **Flickers' Rhode Island International Film Festival**, running **Aug. 9-14, 2016** at **The Vets** (formerly Veterans Memorial Auditorium), please visit www.RIFilmFest.org or call 401.861.4445.

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