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FLICKERS PARTNERS WITH ROGER WILLIAMS UNIVERSITY TO PRESENT FILM/SPEAKER SERIES ON THE JEWISH EXPERIENCE FREE PROGRAM SPONSORED BY THE HELENE AND BERTRAM BERNHARDT FOUNDATION

(November 2, 2013) - Flickers, Rhode Island International Film Festival has partnered with Roger Williams University (RWU), to present its Fall-edition of the annual Roving Eye International Film Festival. The popular and acclaimed festival celebrating global cinema and artists, announces its 2013 sidebar program on the Jewish Experience through short films, documentary, media and a guest speaker. The event takes place **November 12, 13 & 17th**. This year's series explores representations of the Jewish experience in Israel and of the Holocaust through four recent films. The series culminates with a talk by Associate Professor of English and Folklore at Fitchburg State University and author of the 2011 book, *New Israel/New England: Jews and Puritans in Early America*. All programming will take place on the Bristol, RI campus of Roger Williams University. The series is free and open to the public!

"Through film and scholarship, the series tells the stories of the Jewish experience globally—stories of joy and sorrow, faith, diasporas, rich culture, fear and hope—stories that must be told again and again," said the Rev. Nancy Hamlin Soukup, RWU University Multifaith Chaplain co-organizer of the event with Flickers.

The Fall Jewish Experience sidebar of the Roving Eye Festival are presented in partnership with *FLICKERS: Rhode Island International Film Festival*, *the Helene and Bertram Bernhardt Foundation*, *the RWU Department of Communication* *the RWU Feinstein College of Arts and Sciences*, *Dean Robert Eisinger*, *Associate Dean Roberta Adams*, *the RWU Film Production Club*, *RWU Hillel*, and *the Spiritual Life Office*.

THIS YEAR'S SCHEDULE:

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 12th:

FACING FORWARD WHILE LOOKING BACKWARD: THE JEWISH EXPERIENCE TODAY

Introduced by Adjunct Professor George T. Marshall and the Rev. Nancy Soukup, RWU Multifaith Chaplain

REPORTING ON THE TIMES: The New York Times and The Holocaust | Directed by: Emily Harrold | 18 min. | USA | 2012

Inspired by Laurel Leff's award winning book *Buried by The Times*, this film explores how *The New York Times* handled reports of the Holocaust during World War II. It also explores why *The Times*, a Jewish-owned newspaper, buried more than one thousand articles in its back pages. Was it simply an oversight? Or did the publishers and editors fear an American antisemitic backlash? Though interviews and testimony of a Holocaust survivor, historians, journalists, and American citizens who lived through World War II, *Reporting on The Times* encourages audiences to

reevaluate America's place as the Great Liberator. The film also asks viewers to consider the power of the press in creating change.

A Universal Language | Directed by: Igal Hecht | 80 min. | Canada | 2013

What do you get when you pack six of Canada's top comics into a mini-van, and you take them across the Holy Land? This might sound like an opening of a joke, with the punch being a laugh out loud, roaring comedic mayhem, with the maestro of Canadian comedy over seeing it all. Ask any major Canadian comic of the last thirty years what Mark Breslin means to them and the answer will most likely be, the guy who helped me launch my career. From Russell Peters, Howie Mandel, and Chris Rock, Breslin's comedy club, Yuk Yuk's, have jump-started the career of thousands of North America's leading comics. In 2009, the Toronto International Film Festival had a spotlight on Israeli films. A group of anti-Israel activists decided that the films should be censored, because they were made in Israel. Breslin, who believes that art should be used as a bridge between people, was shocked. He decides that the best way to fight the censorship of an art form was to foster dialogue and deeper understanding of Israel and the Middle East, through the power of comedy. Breslin along with the six top Canadian comics travel to the Holy Land on a cultural exchange journey, bringing Canadian comedy to Israel and the Palestinian Territories for Jews and Arabs. Along the way they meet with local Palestinian and Israeli comics, and they try to bridge years of conflict through a common ground every individual has, the power of laughter.

Location: Mary Tefft White Cultural Center (RWU Librray)
Roger Williams University, One Old Ferry Road, Bristol, RI
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Cost: Free Admission

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 13th:

IMMUTABLE MEMORIES: The Jewish Experience And The Holocaust.

Introduced by the Rev. Nancy Soukup, RWU Multifaith Chaplain

Forget Us Not | Directed by: Heather E. Connell | 70 min. | USA | 2012

Forget Us Not is a moving, in depth look at the persecution and subsequent death of the 5 million non-Jewish victims of the WWII Holocaust and the lives of those who survived. Through stories of survivors and historical footage, these lesser-known voices are brought to life. From the Roma and Sinti people who were also targeted for complete annihilation to the thousands of Catholic priests who were killed for speaking out, *Forget Us Not* strives to educate and give tribute to those who were killed for their religion, ethnicity, political views, sexual orientation, and physical handicaps.

http://youtu.be/kLjoR_YDWo4

Location: GH01 (Global Heritage Hall)
Roger Williams University, One Old Ferry Road, Bristol, RI
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Cost: Free Admission

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17th:

TRANSCENDING BOUNDARIES AND BUILDING BRIDGES

With Guest Speaker, **Michael Hoberman**, Associate Professor of English and Folklore at Fitchburg State University. Hoberman is a dynamic young scholar and author of the 2011 book, *New Israel/New England: Jews and Puritans in Early America*.

The New England Puritans' fascination with the legacy of the Jewish religion has been well documented, but their interactions with actual Jews have escaped sustained historical attention. *New Israel/New England* tells the story of the Sephardic merchants who traded and sojourned in Boston and Newport between the mid-seventeenth century and the era of the

American Revolution. The book also explores the complex and often contradictory meanings that the Puritans attached to Judaism and the fraught attitudes that they bore toward the Jews as a people.

More often than not, Michael Hoberman shows in his writing that Puritans thought and wrote about Jews in order to resolve their own theological and cultural dilemmas. A number of prominent New Englanders, including Roger Williams, Increase Mather, Samuel Sewall, Benjamin Colman, Cotton Mather, Jonathan Edwards, and Ezra Stiles, wrote extensively about post-biblical Jews, in some cases drawing on their own personal acquaintance with Jewish contemporaries.

Introduced by the Rev. Nancy Soukup, RWU Multifaith Chaplain

Plus the Academy Award Shortlisted Documentary:

The Lady in Number 6 | Directed by: Malcolm Clarke | 39 min. | Canada, USA, United Kingdom | 2013

The Lady in Number 6 is one of the most inspirational and uplifting stories of the year. 109-year old, Alice Herz Sommer, the world's oldest pianist and Holocaust survivor shares her story on how to achieve a long and happy life. She discussed the importance of music, laughter, and how to have an optimistic outlook on life.

Location: GH 01 (Global Heritage Hall)

Roger Williams University, One Old Ferry Road, Bristol, RI

Time: 2:30 p.m.

Cost: Free Admission

For more information, contact the Spiritual Life Program at Roger Williams University, email nsoukup@rwu.edu. Directions to Roger Williams University can be found at www.rwu.edu

ABOUT ROGER WILLIAMS UNIVERSITY:

Roger Williams University is ranked by *U.S. News & World Report* as eighth among comprehensive colleges in the north. Roger Williams offers undergraduate and graduate programs in the arts and sciences, architecture, business, construction management, education, engineering, historic preservation, justice studies, legal studies, visual arts studies and law. 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. This confluence of art and commerce brought together world-class celebrities, award-winning filmmakers, new talent, and audience members in record numbers last year. Ranked as one of the top-12 festivals in the United States, **RIIFF** is one of 75 festivals worldwide that is a qualifying festival for the **Academy Awards** through its partnership with the **Academy of Motion Pictures Arts & Sciences**.

For more information about the **FLICKERS: Rhode Island International Film Festival**, running **Aug. 5-10, 2014** at The Vets (formerly Veterans Memorial Auditorium), please visit our website at www.RIFilmFest.org or call us at **401.861.4445**.