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## **MEDIA ALERT:**

# **2014 ROVING EYE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL CLOSURES WITH SPEAKER SERIES ON THE JEWISH EXPERIENCE AND AWARD-WINNING PROGRAM OF INTERNATIONAL SHORTS**

**WHAT:** The 9th Annual **Roving Eye International Film Festival**

**WHEN:** April 13, 2013, starting at 2:00 p.m.

**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 art and craft of international filmmaking.

From cutting-edge documentaries to narrative films from across the globe, the ninth 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, completes its 2014 programming on **April 13th**, with a powerful afternoon of lecture and film screenings called "**PRIVATE LIVES, PUBLIC ACTIONS,**" featuring a screening of the documentary "**The Sharps' War: Two Americans Who Defied the Nazis,**" and a special re-screening of the recent Academy Award winner documentary short, "**The Lady in No. 6.**"

The program begins at 2:00 p.m. and addresses a key human rights concern: how far would you go to help others in need even if it meant leaving your family and breaking the laws of a foreign country?

The Roving Eye Festival will screen this new documentary about two Americans, the Rev. Waitstill Sharp and Martha Sharp, who boldly committed to a life-threatening mission in Europe to help save imperiled Jews and refugees at the onset of World War II. This is a story with Rhode Island ties; Martha Sharp grew up in Providence, attended First Baptist Church as a young girl, and graduated from Pembroke College (Brown University). For their heroism, the Sharps are two of only three Americans, who have been honored in Jerusalem's Yad Vashem as Righteous Among the Nations for saving the lives of Jews during the Holocaust.

Directed by the Sharps' grandson, Artemis Joukowsky III, the film tells their remarkable story of courage, as they bravely fought political and social injustice in Europe, ultimately breaking laws in order to get imperiled adults and children exit visas. The film features individual interviews with some of the children, now adults, who were rescued by Martha Sharp and brought to America. Their perspectives, in particular, highlight the generational impact of social change, particularly its effect on them personally and their families.

***In 2015, Ken Burns, legendary filmmaker and documentarian, has announced that he will produce the remarkable American story of Martha and Waitstill Sharp as a WETA/PBS film.***

The Roving Eye Event on April 13 will also feature a discussion with Artemis Joukowsky III, director and grandson of Waitstill and Martha Sharp, and Alexandra and Lydia Joukowsky, their great granddaughters.

Following the lecture, at 4:00 p.m., the Festival will present a program of short films that complement the theme of "Private Lives, Public Actions."

### **Where is My Home?**

Directed by Cecilia de Jesus, USA, United Kingdom, 2013

Running Time: 8 min.

Official Best Film Winner of the USC Shoah Foundation's Student Voices Film Competition, "Where is My Home?" is a short animated documentary that tells the story of Vera Gissing and her experience fleeing Czechoslovakia as a young girl during the onset of the Holocaust.

### **The Lady in Number 6**

Directed by: Malcolm Clarke, Canada, USA, United Kingdom, 2013

Running Time: 39 min.

*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. Sadly, just days before this film won the Academy Award for best short documentary film, Alice died in London.

### **16 Photographs At Ohrdruf,**

Directed by Matthew Nash, USA, 2013

Running Time: 72 min.

With only a small stack of his grandfather's photos for guidance, filmmaker Matthew Nash tries to understand a family secret that began on April 4, 1945. His search reveals the horror of the first concentration camp found by the Allies and the amazing story of the soldiers who uncovered the Holocaust.

For more information, contact the Spiritual Life Program 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 **Roving Eye International Film Festival** is presented through a collaboration between **FLICKERS: Rhode Island International Film Festival** (RIIFF) and **Roger Williams University** (RWU). More than 50 international films will be showcased, many United States premieres. *All screenings are free to the general public* and will take place on the campus of Roger Williams University in Bristol, R.I.

The **2014 Roving Eye International Film Jewish Experience Festival** is sponsored by *The RI Film & the Television Office; Flickers; Edwin S. Soforenko Foundation; Roger Williams University Office of the Provost; the Office of the Dean of Arts and Sciences; the Department of Communications; Hillel; and the Spiritual Life Program.* **We are grateful to the Edwin S. Soforenko Foundation for financial support of this special part of the Roving Eye International Film Festival.**

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>. For more information about films, dates, and venues for Festival, please call 401-861-4445, email: [info@film-festival.org](mailto:info@film-festival.org)

### **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](http://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-10 festivals in the United States, **RIIFF** is one of **19 festivals** worldwide that is a

qualifying festival for the **Academy Awards** in both short film and documentary short film 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 [www.RIFilmFest.org](http://www.RIFilmFest.org) or call **401.861.4445**.

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