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Contact: Aso Friedman

afriedman@phillyjfm.org

215-446-3019

PJFM ANNOUNCES INAUGURAL JEWISH RESILIENCE FILM AND MEDIA SERIES

Celebrating the Strength and Survival of the Jewish People Through Cinema and Digital Media

PHILADELPHIA, PA – Philadelphia Jewish Film and Media (PJFM) proudly announces its first ever **Jewish Resilience Film and Media Series**, a groundbreaking program dedicated to honoring the unwavering fortitude of the Jewish people through cinema and digital media. In an era of rising antisemitism worldwide, this limited series seeks to celebrate Jewish endurance, pay tribute to everyday heroes, and open critical conversations on combating injustice in the Jewish community.

Taking place between **Yom HaShoah and Yom HaZikaron**, the series responds to the global surge of antisemitism following the **atrocities of October 7, 2023**, and offers a message of strength and hope. Hosted at the **Weitzman National Museum of American Jewish History**, the program will feature an array of international films and digital media, culminating in the **Resilience Award**, which will be given to the highest-rated film as voted by audiences.

Why This Series Now?

As tensions rise globally, Jewish communities face renewed challenges in safety, representation, and dialogue. The Jewish Resilience Film and Media Series answers this moment with stories of courage and unity, fostering empathy and education through cinematic storytelling.

"This Series is our way of affirming that Resilience is not just survival," says **Kristen Arter, Executive Director of PJFM**. "It's storytelling, it's song, it's film, and it's the everyday courage to live fully. This thoughtfully curated Series reminds us that Jewish life is vibrant, diverse, and deeply human."

Event Lineup and Ticketing

PJFM presents an impressive selection of films and digital experiences, each capturing unique aspects of Jewish perseverance. Find tickets for each event <u>here</u>.

Opening Night - Thursday, April 24

7:00 PM – THE STRONGHOLD (preceded by A GREAT BIG SECRET)

General Admission: \$18

Friday, April 25

10:00 AM - 4:00 PM - SOME.BODY - A NOVA STORY AI EXHIBITION

2:00 PM - **THEODOR**

General Admission: \$15

Senior/Student Admission: \$13

Saturday, April 26

10:00 AM - 4:00 PM - SOME.BODY - A NOVA STORY AI EXHIBITION

April 27-28 (Streaming on PJFM On Demand)

12:00 AM - 11:59 PM ET - 999: THE FORGOTTEN GIRLS

General Admission: \$20

Sunday, April 27

10:00 AM - 6:00 PM - SOME.BODY - A NOVA STORY AI EXHIBITION

4:00 PM - THE COMMUNITY

General Admission: \$15

Senior/Student Admission: \$13

6:00 PM – TORN (preceded by ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE)

General Admission: \$20

Weitzman Members: \$15

Monday, April 28 (Closing Night)

7:00 PM – **FOUR WINTERS** (preceded by **NEW LIVES**)

General Admission: \$18

Featured Films and Media

- **THE STRONGHOLD** (Opening Night) A gripping narrative feature set in the Sinai Desert during the Yom Kippur War, starring Michael Aloni (*Shtisel*) and Daniel Gad (*The New Black*).
- **FOUR WINTERS** (Closing Night) A documentary highlighting the resistance of 25,000 Jewish partisans during WWII.
- 999: THE FORGOTTEN GIRLS (Streaming on PJFM On Demand) The true story of young Slovak Jewish women sent on the first Jewish transport to Auschwitz.
- **THE COMMUNITY** A portrait of Jewish resilience in Ukraine amidst war and accusations against Ukraine's relationship to Nazism.
- SOME.BODY A NOVA STORY AI EXHIBITION A unique Al-animated film experience reflecting on the Nova music festival massacre survivors.
- **THEODOR** An operatic portrayal of Theodor Herzl's journey to founding the modern state of Israel.
- **TORN** A deep dive into the controversy surrounding the 'KIDNAPPED' poster campaign in New York City, and those that tear the posters down.
- ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE, A GREAT BIG SECRET, and NEW LIVES Short films reflecting on Jewish identity and resilience.

Special Guests

The series will welcome esteemed directors, artists, and advocates, including:

- Julia Mintz (Director, Four Winters)
- Nim Shapira (Director, *Torn*)
- Dede Bandaid and Nitzan Mintz (Artists behind the KIDNAPPED poster campaign)
- Aaron Terr (Public Advocacy Director, FIRE)
- Alana Zeitchik (Israeli-American advocate and hostage family member)

Honoring Jewish Resilience

As antisemitism continues to rise, PJFM remains steadfast in its mission to educate, commemorate, and celebrate Jewish heritage through storytelling. The **Jewish Resilience Film and Media Series** is not just a tribute to the past but an urgent call for solidarity and action in the present.

Full series details available at <u>Jewish Resilience Film and Media Series - Philadelphia</u> <u>Jewish Film and Media</u>

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