



Shoah

Ambassadors

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Contact: Keith Famie

248-869-0096 (Office)

famie@famie.com

The production continues on the DPTV/PBS film, *Shoah Ambassadors*

Detroit - (December 18, 2020) – Shoah Ambassadors, the documentary film by Keith Famie from Visionalist Entertainment Productions, features two young adults from Metro Detroit: a singer-songwriter, Curtis Bates and Hailey Callahan, a CCS graduate, who will tell the story of the Holocaust through their own personal expressions of music and sculpture after hearing the personal stories of Holocaust survivors themselves. The PBS film, which has been in production now for the last year, is in the final stages of principal, COVID-safe, filming.

Community Driven Participation

In an upcoming, closed filming session, date TBD, at the Holocaust Memorial Center, Hailey will unveil her glass creation replica of a train car used to transport prisoners during the war, inspired by an actual full-size train car from the Holocaust that sits on display in the lobby of the center. This emotional unveiling will be led by several of Michigan's most prominent cantors including Cantor Emerita Pamela Schiffer from East Lansing's Congregation Shaarey Zedek, Cantorial Soloist Kelly Onickel from Oak Park's Emanu-El, and Cantorial Soloist Stephanie Michaels from West Bloomfield's Temple Israel. These cantors will be led by Neil Michaels from West Bloomfield's Temple Israel and Daniel Gross from Farmington Hills' Adat Shalom Synagogue. Cantor Gross will compose a special version of the Jewish prayer "Eil Malei Rachamin", which he will sing alongside Cantor Michaels as well as the other featured cantors. They will be accompanied by featured conductor and violinist Nathan Bieber and Cantor Daniel Gross's 8-year-old daughter, Zosia Gross, who will translate the prayer. An additional upcoming filming, date TBD, will be of Holocaust Survivor and celebrated artist Rene Lichtman will be featured painting a message that will come to life at the end of the film.

Famie and the VEP team recently filmed the final rap song visuals for "Stolen Dreams", written and performed by Curtis Bates. Much of the filming will take place at the Holocaust Memorial Center, while a portion of it will be filmed in Detroit neighborhoods. Additionally, Professor Howard Lupovitch, Historian and Associate Professor at Wayne State University, met with our two ambassadors at the Holocaust Memorial Center to help them further understand the Holocaust.

A special candle lighting scene will feature young adults from the International Academy in Bloomfield Hills. The messaging will be one of global unity through race and culture. The goal is to have the film ready for debut on DPTV/PBS on January 28th, 2021 to commemorate Holocaust Remembrance Week.

A heartfelt thank you to our Executive Producers, including John & Carole Kulhavi, and Tom & Sue Rau. We also want to extend our gratitude to our supporting community leaders and organizations, including the Marvin & Betty Danto Family Foundation, Congregation B'nai Moshe, Temple Emanu-El, Donald & Marjory Epstein, Warren & Carol Ann Rose, Arthur & Gina Horowitz, Rabbi Daniel & Jill Syme, James & Cathy Deutchman, Bluma Schechter & Schechter Wealth Investments and Spill the Honey Foundation & their film Shared Legacies: The African – American Jewish Civil Rights Alliance.

To learn more about the production, please go to the film's website
<http://shoahambassadors.com/> or the Facebook page for the film
<https://www.facebook.com/Shoah-Ambassadors>

