

For Immediate Release

Veronica Phillips “The Secret Survivor”

A Documentary Film about the true story of a Holocaust Survivor. Limited Free Film Tickets For Ster-Kinekor Nouveau Screenings

Veronica Phillips will be attending the film screenings on 13 November in Johannesburg and on 22 November in Pretoria.

Johannesburg, South Africa – 30 October 2018

During November 2018, the #GETPeaceProject documentary film entitled *The Secret Survivor*, by South African film director, Johnathan Andrews will be released in Ster Kinekor Nouveau theatres in four cities in South Africa (Johannesburg, Durban, Cape Town, Pretoria). The film premiere will take place at 20:00 on Tuesday, 13 November 2018 in the Ster Kinekor Rosebank Nouveau, Johannesburg.

The film was made in association with The Embassy of Switzerland, The Embassy of Israel, and the Johannesburg Holocaust & Genocide Centre.

The Embassy of Switzerland is sponsoring tickets to the film screenings at 20:00 on 13 November (Johannesburg), 15 November (Cape Town), 20 November (Durban) and 22 November (Pretoria) for members of the public to watch the film. A film screening can be attended by sending RSVP request via email to info@getpeaceproject.com

Media are invited to attend any of the film screenings.

About the Film:

The film is an eye-witness account and fragment of history told by Veronica Phillips, 92 year old, living in Johannesburg today. After nearly 70 years of silence Veronica shared her experience as a Holocaust Survivor with South African film director, Johnathan Andrews.

Veronica begins her story by recalling experiences that she had as a teenager under the 1938 anti-Jewish policies of the Hungarian authorities. Even though the growing anti-Semitism in Budapest started changing life for her at school in a horrible way, and despite her father being taken into forced labour in 1940, she could never have imagined that she would spend the month of her 18th birthday in a Swiss safe house under the protection of Carl Lutz the Swiss Vice-Consul in Budapest. Neither did she know that she was going to walk the streets of her home city wearing a yellow Star of David on her chest with a black line through it, and that she would regularly be publically assaulted and humiliated by gangs of Arrow Cross members in the place where she grew up.

She vividly recalls the Nazis marching into Budapest on 19 March 1944. The arrival of Adolf Eichmann and his staff contingent marked the beginning of a period of terror, fear, inhumane treatment and extermination of hundreds of thousands of Jews in Hungary, and Budapest in particular.

Veronica and her family were arrested by the Arrow Cross on 1 December 1944 while they lived under Swiss protection in a Swiss safe house. Their protective “schutzbrief” was torn up and they were flung down the stairs from their apartment on the 5th floor and marched at gun point to a park. In the park, she was separated from her mother, brother and father, forced into an overcrowded cattle car, and began an almost 9 day journey by train with no food and no water. Their destination was not known to her. It was one of the coldest winters recorded in history with temperatures dropping to minus 40 degrees.

At night, in December 1944, the train eventually arrived at Ravensbrück – a Nazi concentration camp for women. She could hear dogs barking and German voices shouting commands...

Veronica Phillips tells her story of surviving the Holocaust – she remembers her years as teenager in Budapest, waiting in line with her mother to get a Swiss letter of protection, the Arrow Cross, the Nazis, the concentration camps where she was held, and the death march, while the Nazis were not looking secretly eating grass from fields to stay alive – and finding her way back to Budapest again.

After the war, Veronica became a Scientist - Microbiologist and Geneticist - studied and lectured at Brunel

University for two decades, and subsequently lectured at the University of the Witwatersrand for another two decades.

The film features Veronica telling her story of surviving the Holocaust, with historians and experts providing insights into aspects related to the time when the events took place.

The film, with additional scenes and content, will be made available for purchase on DVD after the film release.

Watch the movie trailer: <https://unitedworldnation.org/veronica-phillips-the-secret-survivor/>
YouTube: <https://youtu.be/y8c4qU-Q1cA>

Website links for more information about screenings:

Ster-Kinekor Cinema Nouveau website <https://www.sterkinekor.com/details/HO00001283>

United World Nation website <https://unitedworldnation.org/veronica-phillips-the-secret-survivor/>

Screening Dates and Cities:

Johannesburg

20:00, Tuesday, 13 November 2018

Ster-Kinekor Nouveau, Rosebank Nouveau Cinema 1, Rosebank Mall, 50 Bath Ave, Rosebank, Johannesburg

<https://www.sterkinekor.com/details/HO00001283>

Cape Town

20:00, Thursday, 15 November 2018

Ster-Kinekor Nouveau, V&A Nouveau Cinema 4, Breakwater Blvd, V & A Waterfront, Cape Town

<https://www.sterkinekor.com/details/HO00001283>

Durban

20:00, Tuesday, 20 November 2018

Ster-Kinekor Nouveau, Cinema 14, Gateway Theatre Of Shopping, Palm Blvd, Umhlanga Ridge, Durban,

<https://www.sterkinekor.com/details/HO00001283>

Pretoria

20:00, Thursday, 22 November 2018

Ster-Kinekor Nouveau, Cinema 1, Brooklyn Mall Corner Veale Street & Fehrsen Street New Muckleneuk, Brooklyn, Pretoria

<https://www.sterkinekor.com/details/HO00001283>

Featured in the film:

Veronica Phillips - Holocaust Survivor

Tali Nates - Director of the Johannesburg Holocaust & Genocide Centre

François Wisard - Chef Service Historique - Département fédéral des affaires étrangères, Switzerland

Robert Rozett - Senior Historian & Director of the Yad Vashem Libraries

Agnes Hirschi - Stepdaughter of Carl Lutz the Swiss Vice-Consul in Budapest

Lior Keinan - Ambassador of Israel in South Africa (2018)

Martin Schäfer - Ambassador of Germany in South Africa (2018)

Helene Budliger Artieda - Ambassador of Switzerland in South Africa (2018)

About the #GETPeaceProject:

GET is the acronym for a project to **Get Earth Together**. Making films that make a difference, promote peace and tolerance, and inspire positive change. The #GETPeaceProject is powered by Johannesburg based film director, Johnathan Andrews for his initiative entitled *United World Nation*.

For more information visit the website <http://getpeaceproject.com>

More Information About The Screenings:

Website: <https://unitedworldnation.org/veronica-phillips-the-secret-survivor/>

Email: info@getpeaceproject.com

Media attendance of Johannesburg and Pretoria Film Screening RSVP's:

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