



A LIVING  
MEMORIAL  
TO THE  
HOLOCAUST

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## Documentary Films Provide Insight on Renewal After Genocide

*at the Museum of Jewish Heritage—A Living Memorial to the Holocaust*

New York, NY—This March, the **Museum of Jewish Heritage—A Living Memorial to the Holocaust** will present screenings of two documentaries that explore the aftermath of atrocity. On **Monday, March 2 at 7 p.m.**, the Museum will screen *Spell Your Name* (Ukraine, 2006, 89 minutes), with a special Q&A with director **Sergey Bukovsky**. On **Sunday, March 29 at 1 p.m.**, the recently released *My Neighbor, My Killer* (USA, 2009, 80 minutes) will be shown, followed by a discussion with director and producer **Anne Aghion**. While these powerful films examine two very different societies—Ukraine and Rwanda respectively—each gives new insight to how human beings remember, cope with, and heal after tragedy.

Tickets for *Spell Your Name* are free with suggested donation. Tickets for *My Neighbor, My Killer* are \$10 adults, \$7 students/seniors, and \$5 Members. All tickets are available online at [www.mjhnyc.org](http://www.mjhnyc.org) or by calling the Museum box office at 646.437.4202.

In *Spell Your Name*, Bukovsky takes viewers on a journey of discovery as he and three Ukrainian journalism students absorb the testimony of local people who escaped brutal execution and of those who rescued friends and neighbors during the Holocaust. The men and women in the film share the details of their experiences, and viewers are afforded a glimpse of modern day Ukraine: including the ethnic stereotypes that continue to exist and the manner in which post-Soviet society is dealing with the question of how to memorialize the sites where tens of thousands of Jewish families and others were executed and thrown into mass graves.

This film is produced by the USC Shoah Foundation Institute and co-executive produced by Steven Spielberg and Victor Pinchuk; it is presented in conjunction with the current exhibition *The Shooting of Jews in Ukraine: Holocaust by Bullets*.

*My Neighbor, My Killer* is an unprecedented and intimate look at Rwanda's government-established, citizen-based courts and a society's efforts to rebuild itself. The Gacaca court system was established in 2001 as a means of speeding up trials for the over 100,000 people accused of genocide, war crimes, and other crimes against humanity. Based in a tradition of village justice, Gacaca courts seek reconciliation and justice in an attempt to build lasting unity among all Rwandans. *My Neighbor, My Killer* completes director and producer Anne Aghion's Rwandan trilogy—*In Rwanda We Say... The Family That Does Not Speak Dies* and *Gacaca, Living Together Again in Rwanda?*—which was filmed for nearly a decade and is being released during the 15th anniversary of the Rwandan genocide.

This screening is presented in association with the Human Rights Watch International Festival and the Program in Holocaust and Human Rights Studies at the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law.

### **About the Directors**

During his 25-year career, **Sergey Bukovsky** has made approximately 50 documentary films, some of which received awards at prestigious international film festivals. His films include: *Tomorrow is a Holiday* (1987), *Roof* (1990), *Dislocation* (1992), *The Hyphen* (1992), *To Berlin!* (1995), *Real Light* (2000), and the nine-part documentary series for television *War: The Ukrainian Account*, which was awarded the National Taras Shevchenko Prize of Ukraine in 2004.

Multiple award-winning filmmaker **Anne Aghion** has been praised by critics as a documentarian who succeeds in conveying, without preconception, a strong sense of the people and places she covers. Her films have received accolades around the world—including Emmy and UNESCO Fellini Awards for her work documenting the aftermath of genocide in Rwanda. Anne recently released *Ice People*, a journey with Antarctica's 21st-century explorers.

### **About the Museum**

The Museum's three-floor Core Exhibition educates people of all ages and backgrounds about the rich tapestry of Jewish life over the past century—before, during, and after the Holocaust. Special exhibitions include *Woman of Letters: Irène Némirovsky and Suite Française*, on view through August 30 and *The Shooting of Jews in Ukraine: Holocaust by Bullets*, on view through March 23. The Museum offers visitors a vibrant public program schedule in its Edmond J. Safra Hall. It is also home to Andy Goldsworthy's memorial *Garden of Stones*, as well as James Carpenter's *Reflection Passage*, Gift of The Gruss Lipper Foundation. The Museum receives general operating support from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, and is a founding member of the *Museums of Lower Manhattan*.

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