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Contact:

Robin Truesdale
ForgottenJewelsFilm@gmail.com
<http://forgottenjewelsfilm.com/>
303-594-5048

“Cuba’s Forgotten Jewels” Wins Award in Impact DOCS Awards Competition

(Boulder, CO, July 26, 2017) – Filmmaking Co-directors Robin Truesdale and Judy Kreith have won a prestigious Award of Merit: Documentary Feature from *The Impact DOCS Awards Competition*. The award was given for their documentary film “Cuba’s Forgotten Jewels, a Haven in Havana”. The film exposes a little known story of Jewish refugees who escaped from Nazi-occupied Europe and found refuge on the island of Cuba. The film features vibrant visuals and a stunning musical score.

Ms. Truesdale is an independent documentary filmmaker, director, freelance editor, and producer who has worked with major clients such as ABC, NBC, and National Geographic. Ms. Kreith, with a background in dance and choreography, has a personal connection to Cuba, as her mother was a Jewish refugee in the country and appears in the film.

“The Island of Cuba holds a vital role in my life. The stories my mother told me when I was a child of her almost miraculous escape from Nazi-occupied Europe to Cuba have been an enormous inspiration in the creation of the film. I felt that stories of Jewish refugees who escaped to Cuba should be documented for the future. This film represents years of passion and dedication that Robin and I shared as we gathered testimonials, precious archival materials, and colorful aspects of Cuban life through music, video, and photos of the past and present,” said Kreith.

Truesdale added, “Archives come to life when we use them in the context of story. In weaving together personal memory, historical events, and powerful imagery, we as filmmakers are able to help voices from the past speak loudly again.”

“To receive the Impact Docs Merit Award is truly an honor for us. We appreciate the recognition of our hard work and commitment to telling this historically powerful story,” the filmmakers commented.

Impact DOCS recognizes film, television, videography and new media professionals who demonstrate exceptional achievement in craft and creativity, and those who produce standout entertainment or contribute to profound social change. Documentaries were received from 30 countries, including veteran award

winning filmmakers and fresh new talent. Entries were judged by highly qualified and award winning professionals in the film and television industry.

In winning an Impact DOCS award, Truesdale and Kreith join the ranks of other high-profile winners of this internationally respected award including the Oscar winning director Louie Psihoyos for his 2016 Best of Show – *Racing Extinction*, Oscar winner Yael Melamede for *(Dis)Honesty – The Truth About Lies*, and Emmy Award winner Gerald Rafshoon for *Endless Corridors* narrated by Oscar winner Jeremy Irons, and many more.

Rick Prickett, who chairs Impact DOCS, had this to say about the latest winners. “The judges and I were simply blown away by the variety and immensely important documentaries we screened. Impact DOCS is not an easy award to win. Entries are received from around the world from powerhouse companies to remarkable new talent. Impact DOCS helps set the standard for craft and creativity as well as power catalysts for global change. The goal of Impact DOCS is to help winners achieve the recognition they deserve for their dedication and work.”

For more information call Robin Truesdale, 303-594-5048, Judy Kreith, 907-687-4071, or visit the film website at <http://forgottenjewelsfilm.com/>.

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