



## Press release

Warsaw, June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2016

**The world premiere of the film by Michael Jaskulski and Lawrence Loewinger "BOGDAN'S JOURNEY" (PRZY PLANTY 7/9) is taking place on 22 June 2016 (Wednesday) at the Museum of the History of Polish Jews POLIN in Warsaw.**

The premiere will be held under the aegis of Poland's Chief Rabbi, Michael Schudrich, Metropolitan Archbishop of Warsaw, Cardinal Kazimierz Nycz, and the Chairman of the Committee For Dialogue with Judaism, Bishop Rafal Markowski.

On Wednesday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. in Warsaw's Museum of the History of Polish Jews, the premiere of this American-Polish documentary on the Kielce pogrom will be celebrated.

July 4, 1946 - A year after the Second World War - police, soldiers and ordinary Kielce inhabitants killed more than 40 Jews and wounded about 80 people - survivors of the Holocaust living in the city center. The Kielce pogrom became a symbol of Polish post-war anti-Semitism in the Jewish world. In communist Poland, it was a forbidden subject.

The film BOGDAN'S JOURNEY (PRZY PLANTY 7/9) is an extraordinary journey in which we accompany the main character. Bogdan Bialek, a Polish Catholic was born in multicultural and multi-religious Bialystok. Today, he lives in Kielce, a city whose image in the Jewish world outside of Poland was for a long time associated with the murder of Holocaust survivors. Bogdan Bialek has spent years of his life reconciling Jews and Poles after the tragedy of 1946.

BOGDAN'S JOURNEY is about a man who takes his city, Kielce, on a journey which changes it. This long, painful, sometimes dangerous journey also change him. It is also a journey that propels our protagonist across borders to reconnect and reconcile Poles and Jews.

Telling a contemporary story, rooted in the past, this documentary builds awareness that historical knowledge is necessary to find oneself in today's world.

Directors of the film - a Polish Catholic and an American Jew – filming this documentary for nearly ten years, have combined their backgrounds, experiences and religious affiliations in order to understand the history of the pogrom. On the 70th



anniversary of the tragedy, they show the audience a story about how people can change, when even the harshest truth is told with love.

After the screening, the filmmakers invite the audience to join them in a discussion about the film. BOGAN JOURNEY'S protagonist, Bogdan Białek will also participate in the discussion, along with historian, Marcin Zaremba. Also present will be the film's producing partner, Marcin Wierzchosławski. There will be a reception after the screening and discussion.

**Media Partners:**

TVP Kultura, Planete +, TOK FM, stopklatka.pl, Wirtualna Polska.pl

**Information on the film:**

<http://www.bogdansjourney.pl/start1.html>

<https://web.facebook.com/bogdansjourney/?fref=ts>

<https://twitter.com/BogdansJourney>

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