

Feb. 10, 2017

Oscar winner at Holocaust center

The Holocaust Memorial Center Zekelman Family Campus will host Academy Award-winning filmmaker Jon Blair at 1:30 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 26. The event, titled “Anne Frank Remembered,” will begin with a Q&A session with Blair, who will then speak about his experiences making the documentary of the same name, followed by a presentation of the film, which is approximately two hours long.



In 1995, Blair, a political refugee from apartheid-era South Africa, wrote, directed and produced “Anne Frank Remembered,” a documentary featuring Kenneth Branagh, Glenn Close and Miep Gies, the woman who hid the Franks. The film went on to win an Academy Award for Best Documentary Film, International Emmy and BAFTA. Blair is the only documentary filmmaker to win all three accolades.

Two decades later, Blair was honored by Queen Elizabeth II for his contribution to film, making him a Commander of the Order of the British Empire, one of the United Kingdom’s highest awards.

Blair’s diverse body of work for film and television is characterized by a concern for, and interest in, the importance of human rights around the globe. Other topics Blair has examined include Bahrain and Oskar Schindler, the latter of which inspired Steven Spielberg to make “Schindler’s List” a decade later.

“We are looking forward to welcoming Jon Blair to metropolitan Detroit. His visit will be a must-attend event for those interested in Anne Frank’s story, which is one we are telling through our current exhibit, Anne Frank: A History for Today,” said Rabbi Eli Mayerfeld, CEO, Holocaust Memorial Center Zekelman Family Campus. “Blair’s portfolio of work is truly remarkable. Each piece he has created makes audiences stop and reflect on events that have taken place outside of their immediate lives. I hope those who attend have that same experience.” Anne Frank: A History for Today is open through June 4.

The program, which will include refreshments, is supported by the PNC Foundation, Joan and Robert Epstein, the Kappy Family, Martina Venter and Frithjof Oldorff, Dorothy and Hershel Sandberg, Stewart Shear, Fay and Leon Siegel and Stacey and Marc Wittenberg.

The event is free with admission or membership and RSVPs are requested by Feb. 23 to 248-553-2400, ext. 112, or RSVP@holocaustcenter.org. Guests may attend only the talk, however, reservations must be made for that as well.