**Please Note:** Photos (High Res.), a participant list/locations, production statements, credits, &

a promo/trailer, are all availablein the pressroom of New Mexico PBS at: <http://www.newmexicopbs.org/pressroom> A full length, press-preview screener is also available upon request, as are interviews with the filmmakers.

------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Oct. 13, 2020

**"What Would You Do if Your Family's Secret Heritage Was Revealed?"**

****

**Presents**

**A LONG JOURNEY: THE HIDDEN JEWS OF THE SOUTHWEST**

**Ch. 5.1 - Thursday, Nov.19, at 7 p.m. & Sunday, Nov. 22, at 1 p.m.**

**Ch. 9.1 - Monday, Nov. 23, at 10 p.m.**

 **-- Bi-National Simulcast Premiere --**

**Canal 22, Mexico’s Cultural Channel & Part of the Ministry of Culture,**

**To Also Broadcast the Premiere on Nov. 19, 2020**

 *“ ‘A Long Journey’ is personal, profound and beautifully filmed.*

*Not to be missed. A film for audiences of all backgrounds.”*

 Review: Corinne Brown, HaLapid,

 The Journal of the Society of Crypto-Judaic Studies

(Albuquerque, NM) Their four hundred-year journey started with expulsion from Spain, continuing through Mexico with persecution by the Inquisition, finally settling in the American Southwest.  The physical journeys of secret Jews – *Conversos* or *Crypto-Jews* – ended in colonial times, but their internal journeys continue to this day.

**A LONG JOURNEY: THE HIDDEN JEWS OF THE SOUTHWEST** airing on **Ch. 5.1 - Thursday, Nov.19, at 7 p.m. and again Sunday, Nov. 22, at 1 p.m.; and on Ch. 9.1 - Monday, Nov. 23, at 10 p.m.,** is a story of reaffirmation and self-awareness, and a celebration of the richness and diversity of Jewish and Latino cultures today.

A one-hour documentary by award-winning director Isaac Artenstein and produced by Paula Amar Schwartz, **A LONG JOURNEY: THE HIDDEN JEWS OF THE SOUTHWEST,** brings to life the fascinating stories of contemporary of individuals whose secret was their hidden Jewish roots while living an outwardly Catholic life.

Learn about stories of forced expulsion, with journeys to Mexico, Southern Texas and Northern New Mexico; the reawakening of long-obscured Spanish-Jewish traditions, the resilience of faith and culture, and the eventual triumph of acceptance and respect over tyranny and intolerance. These unique stories are set against magnificent natural and cultural landscapes, accompanied by an original score by acclaimed composer Mark Adler.

"A LONG JOURNEY is a story about self-awareness and reaffirmation, and a celebration of the richness and diversity of Jewish and Latino cultures in the American Southwest that I believe all audiences will find engaging,” said director Isaac Artenstein. “The Western frontier, is, after all, one of the most influential myths in American culture.”

Throughout Mexico, Canal 22 presented a special, simultaneous bi-national broadcast premiere (subtitled), on Nov. 19, 2020.  Canal 22 is Mexico’s Cultural Channel, a Public Television system, and part of the Ministry of Culture for Mexico,

“New Mexico PBS was honored to present a unique event with Mexico’s Cultural Channel, Canal 22 – a bi-national, simulcast premiere of A LONG JOURNEY - a story whose historical relevance impacts both nations,” said Franz Joachim, General Manger and CEO, New Mexico PBS (NMPBS). “As an ongoing resource for both cultural and historical discovery, NMPBS was please to work with the producers on not only presenting a side of history that many may not know, but of also looking at the modern day people impacted by actions taken centuries ago. The story of the *Conversos* or “*Crypto-Jews*” of the Southwest is a story of relevance and resilience, culture, humanity, and faith, of interest beyond the Jewish community and internationally.”

“For Channel 22, it’s very enriching to establish alliances to provide content of the highest quality as is A LONG JOURNEY: THE HIDDEN JEWS OF THE SOUTHWEST (*RUTAS DEL EXILIO, JUDÍOS EN EL VIEJO OESTE*), since it allows the opportunity to offer to audiences of all backgrounds, diverse and engaging content.  It’s of great interest that the broadcast is taking place simultaneously on both sides of our countries' borders, giving visibility to topics of common interest and from different spheres such as the political, social and cultural.”

-- Armando Casas, General Director, Canal 22, Mexico

**Additional Quotes by Isaac Artenstein:**

"NMPBS recognized the pertinence of this story to the region's history and culture, and almost instantly agreed to a co-production deal that helped us create a film we're now very proud of,” continues Artenstein. “As an independent producer, I'm also very fortunate that NMPBS is distributing A LONG JOURNEY to PBS affiliates nationwide.

 “The untold stories in A LONG JOURNEY reflect the reality of hybrid cultures, and how the presence of Native American, Spanish, Mexican and Jewish cultures, were integral to the formation of the American Southwest.  These testimonials also resulted in a fascinating exploration into the varied identities found in the region, while the geographic settings  provided a true inspiration for cinematic expression.”

**A LONG JOURNEY: THE HIDDEN JEWS OF THE SOUTHWEST**

A Cinewest - KNME/NMPBS Co-Production

Directed by Isaac Artenstein

Produced by Paula Amar Schwartz

Executive Producers Melvin J. Schwartz and Franz Joaquim

Co-Produced by Judith Artenstein

Cinematography Sergio Ulloa

Edited and Written by Keith Shapiro

Music by Mark Adler

**Brief:**

**A Long Journey: The Hidden Jews of the Southwest**brings to life stories of individuals whose secret was their hidden Jewish roots while living an outwardly Catholic life. It’s a cinematic journey about reaffirmation and self-awareness set against the magnificent natural and cultural landscapes of the region.

**Isaac Artenstein - Director**

Directed *Ballad of an Unsung Hero* which aired nationally on PBS and served as the basis for his feature film *Break of Dawn*. He also directed *Tijuana Jews*, *Border Brujo* and *Growing Up Weston*. He produced the comedies *A Day Without a Mexican* and *Love Always*. He also directed *Challah Rising in the Desert: The Jews of New Mexico*, and *To the Ends of the Earth: A Portrait of Jewish San Diego*, as part of the Frontier Jews series focusing on communities along the Southwest border region. He’s currently working on *The Journeys of Harry Crosby* about the pioneering photographer and historian of the Baja California peninsula.

**Paula Amar Schwartz - Producer**

is a Pittsburg, PA native who initially came to New Mexico in the 1960s to attend UNM. She’s the past president the New Mexico Jewish Historical Society and helped create a landmark videographer history of the state’s Jewish Pioneers. She produced the feature-length documentary *Challah Rising in the Desert: The Jews of New Mexico* which premiered on KNME-NMPBS (2017). She taught at Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia, published many scientific articles and books and served as president of the Society of Clinical Psychologists. Paula has published two books of poetry “Beyond Time and Space” (2008) and “Unfolding Universe” (2013)

**New Mexico PBS (NMPBS)**

Celebrating over 60 years of service, NMPBS (KNME & KNMD-TV) serving most of

New Mexico and the Navajo Nation, broadcasts a wide array of nature, history, current affairs, health, performance, children's, educational and entertainment programs. NMPBS produces

NEW MEXICO IN FOCUS, COLORES! and a variety of specials. NMPBS operates 5 digital broadcast channels: 5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 9.1, and 9.2. NMPBS is co-licensed to the University of

New Mexico (UNM) and Albuquerque Public Schools (APS). [www.nmpbs.org](http://www.nmpbs.org)

Get Updates, Watch, and Follow New Mexico PBS on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Instagram & More!

<https://www.facebook.com/NewMexicoPBS>

<http://twitter.com/NMPBS>

<http://www.youtube.com/user/newmexicopbs>

<https://www.instagram.com/nmpbs>

**Press contacts:**

Evy Todd

Publicist/Station Relations

KNME-TV/New Mexico PBS, Ch.5.1

(505) 265-3025 (cell/text)

(505) 277-1218

etodd@newmexicopbs.org

[www.newmexicopbs.org](http://www.newmexicopbs.org/)

**For Press Interviews outside of New Mexico, please contact:**

Isaac Artenstein, Director

cinewest@aol.com

cinewest.net

###