



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 4, 2018

VEDEM UNDERGROUND
FEATURED AT THE BREMAN MUSEUM

ATLANTA, GA – The William Breman Jewish Heritage Museum is honored to feature *VEDEM UNDERGROUND: The Secret Magazine of the Terezin Ghetto (1942-1944)* in its Midtown Atlanta location from October 15, 2018 through March 10, 2019.

Named one of the Smithsonian's 10 "Don't Miss..." new exhibits for Winter 2017, *VEDEM UNDERGROUND*, produced by the VEDEM Foundation, is an art installation that deconstructs and reinterprets the literary work of the teenage Jewish creators of the longest-running underground magazine in a Nazi camp. From 1942 to 1944, *Vedem* ("In the Lead" in Czech) chronicled life within the walls of Czechoslovakia's Terezin Ghetto, and was a symbol of protest, rebellion and creative activism by some of the era's youngest resistance fighters.

Inspired by *Vedem's* invaluable lessons about the necessity of free speech and the dangers of propaganda and censorship, the exhibit premiered at the Simon Wiesenthal Center's Museum of Tolerance in Los Angeles in 2016, and has since been presented in Houston, El Paso, Austin and Sacramento. It is scheduled to travel to several additional North American locations, including Dallas, Milwaukee and Canada, by 2020.

Using a combination of pop-art graphics, archival photographs and cartoons as well as the prose and poetry created by the magazine's contributors, *VEDEM UNDERGROUND* celebrates the artistic and cultural legacy of *Vedem* by breaking down its 83 weekly issues totaling 800 pages, then reconstructing them in the form of a contemporary magazine.

VEDEM UNDERGROUND was produced and curated by Rina Taraseiskey, whose grandfather led the resistance at Lithuania's Kovno Ghetto, and who is also co-writing the companion book *Vedem Underground: Pages of Resistance* and producing the *Vedem Underground* documentary film with an Oscar - and Emmy-award winning team; Los Angeles-based art director Michael Murphy, who conceptualized the exhibit as a merging of punk subculture-inspired art and the 1940s-era 'zine aesthetic; and Dallas-based writer and journalist Danny King, who is producing and co-writing the companion book.

"It's been an honor to showcase the incredibly courageous and creative work by some of the youngest resistance fighters of the World War II era," Said *VEDEM UNDERGROUND* producer and curator Rina

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Taraseiskey. *"These teenage boys refused to give up their identity, their humanity and their fighting spirit."*

"I was motivated to combine the feel of a 1940s-era 'zine with something that would be more relatable today, especially to younger people," said VEDEM UNDERGROUND creative director Michael Murphy. *"These boys were rebels, so I took a more contemporary, almost punk-rock approach."*

"These boys were risking their lives in order to do this and they used nicknames to hide their identities," said VEDEM UNDERGROUND co-producer Danny King. *"Vedem reflected the stark reality of life inside Terezin, but it was also an escape for them. They expressed their opinions with humor, cartoons and poetry. They could forget that they were in prison."*

VEDEM UNDERGROUND was the winner of the 2016 WORD Grant: The Bruce Geller Memorial Prize, a project of American Jewish University's Institute for Jewish Creativity. The exhibit has also been generously supported by the Jewish Community Foundation of Los Angeles. Other support for the project comes from Steven Spielberg's Righteous Persons Foundation and The Ziering Family Foundation.

About the William Breman Jewish Heritage Museum

The Breman Museum is one of the leading destinations for Jewish history, culture and arts in the Southeast and home to the permanent exhibition *Absence of Humanity: The Holocaust Years, 1933-1945*; Blonder Gallery and the Schwartz Gallery, each hosting a variety of traveling and rotating exhibitions. The Museum Library and Cuba Family Archives add to the Atlanta-based attractions while the Weinberg Center for Holocaust Education provides meaningful educational resources for students, teachers, and lifelong learners.

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ABOUT THE VEDEM FOUNDATION: The VEDEM Foundation produces, operates and promotes its traveling museum collection about Vedem, the longest underground magazine to be regularly produced in a Nazi camp. The Foundation aims to provide both the catalyst and tools for young adults to become creative activists within their communities through innovative multimedia materials and programming, including books, films and educational programs.



VEDEM: THE SECRET MAGAZINE OF THE TEREZIN GHETTO

PRODUCTION TEAM

Rina Taraseiskey – Founder/Executive Director

The granddaughter of Holocaust survivors, Rina Taraseiskey has produced films since 2000 and is the founder of Blue Lemon Productions, which is dedicated to creating socially conscious documentaries and exhibitions. In 2016, Taraseiskey produced and curated a museum exhibit about the magazine Vedem (“In the Lead” in Czech), a teen-authored magazine that was the only underground publication to be regularly produced by Nazi concentration camp prisoners. She’s producing and directing a feature documentary on Vedem that’s slated for release in 2020. Taraseiskey has also created and produced programs for the *Discovery Channel*, *History Channel*, *Style Network*, *Travel Channel* and *Fox Kids*. Taraseiskey worked on the Oscar-nominated Holocaust documentary “Prisoner of Paradise” and helped create and implement the international educational outreach program for the Oscar-winning film “The Last Days.” Her artistic endeavors also include founding an art gallery featuring emerging artists in Los Angeles. Born in Vilnius, Lithuania, Taraseiskey, whose grandfather led a Lithuanian partisan group in the Kovno Ghetto, received an MBA with honors from McGill University, and is fluent in Russian and Hebrew.

Michael Murphy – Creative Director

Michael Murphy has been a design professional in the Los Angeles area since 1997 and has served as the VEDEM Foundation’s creative director since 2015. He is also currently an art director for an advertising agency. His work can be seen at www.seemikerun.com.

Danny King – Director/Writer

Danny King’s journalism career dates to 1999 and includes work in documentary films, books, wire services, newspapers, weekly consumer and trade publications, websites, news blogs and radio. In

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In addition to his work on *Vedem Underground*, King has served as hotels editor for *Travel Weekly*, the West Coast consumer reporter for *Bloomberg News* and real estate reporter for the *Los Angeles Business Journal*. His work has also appeared in the *New York Times*, *Los Angeles Times*, *International Herald Tribune*, *Daily Variety*, *Seattle Times* and *Orlando Sentinel*. King has a master's degree from UCLA and an undergraduate degree from UC Berkeley.