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The Promised Band

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"The Promised Band," Wins 2016 Cinequest's "Best Documentary" and the Canon-Atomos Documentary Filmmaker Award

Sacramento, CA, March 15, 2016 --([PR.com](#))-- The world premiere of The Promised Band, directed by Jen Heck, took the 2016 Cinequest Film Festival by storm. After shaking up the conversation about peace, borders and friendship in the Middle East and packing theaters for four screenings, The Promised Band received two awards; Best Documentary Feature, and The Canon-Atomos Documentary Filmmaker Award.



The film follows a group of women in Israel and Palestine trying to engage in and maintain friendships across one of the most contested borders in the world. The intimacy and honesty that develops between them reveals unexpected shades of gray in a conflict often presented in black and white. In a place where friendship across borders is essentially criminalized, the film asks if peace is even possible when the two sides misunderstand each other so badly--and if that misunderstanding could be by design. If the band can't get together long enough to make one song, is creating a greater peace agreement even possible? As the film's star Lina Qadri says, "I can't live without a dream."

The film's Director Jen Heck is a featured speaker at this year's Hands of Peace Benefit Gala in Chicago, titled "Riding the Peace Train." The event takes place at the Museum of Science and Industry, 5700 S. Lake Shore Drive Chicago, IL 60637 on Sunday April 17th, from 6:00pm-9:30pm.

For more information or to speak with the director of the film, request a screening copy, or to arrange an interview with other cast or crew members, contact Darcy Totten 512-577-3107 or darcy.totten@gmail.com.

About the Film

The Promised Band is a film about what happens when two groups of women on opposite sides of the Israeli/Palestinian border decide to risk their lives for friendship. Facing fears of violence, social stigma and of course, a 26 foot wall, the women decide they need a cover story to hang out. Despite limited musical talent or experience, and with the help of an excited American friend, they decided to start a band. The often illegal border crossings that ensue are made more cumbersome by instruments, emotional baggage and a Rabbi's rock star dreams. As the women connect over hummus and shared moments, the stakes between their countries come to have new meaning as their lives are changed in ways no one could have imagined.

For more information go to <http://thepromisedband.com> to view the trailer, read press coverage and find out more about the cast and crew.

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