

Seeds of *Resiliency*

A film by Susan Polis Schutz



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SEEDS OF RESILIENCY Reveals How People Overcome Life-Changing Tragedies and Challenges

Film Premieres on Public Television April 2013

Produced and directed by Susan Polis Schutz, **SEEDS OF RESILIENCY** examines the strength of the human spirit in the face of seemingly insurmountable traumas and obstacles. "In the concentration camp, I slept on straw," said Holocaust survivor Fanny Lebovits. "I dreamed every night of sleeping on white sheets. I never lost hope." This inspiring one-hour documentary is presented by KPBS/San Diego and distributed by American Public Television (APT) and will appear on public television stations in April/ May 2013 (check local listings).

Why are some men and women able to rise above the most difficult life-crushing challenges? How do they survive and, in many cases, turn their personal tragedies into effective ways to help others?

Documentary filmmaker and best-selling author Susan Polis Schutz set out to answer those questions by interviewing twelve diverse people who have overcome the odds. "In **SEEDS OF RESILIENCY**, I was on a quest to discover how people live through severe tragedies and challenges," said Polis Schutz. "I wanted to learn and show people what the characteristics are that these survivors share in common."

The result is a thoroughly engrossing, moving and uplifting series of twelve portraits of amazing individuals whose stories are hauntingly memorable. **SEEDS OF RESILIENCY** introduces us to diverse people who refused to be conquered no matter how difficult their situation seemed at the time.

We meet a man who escaped the terrible slaughter in war-torn Uganda and now devotes himself to helping other refugees; a mother whose daughter was killed by a drunken driver and turned her tragic loss into a national program (MADD) that has saved over 600,000 lives; a young man who's confined to and performs flips in his wheelchair so skillfully that it has landed him in the Guinness Book of Records; a famous South Korean

professor who became a quadriplegic, but amazingly does not consider himself unfortunate; and three Holocaust survivors one which exclaims her steadfast belief that "The worst can bring out the best in us."

Readers interested in learning more about **SEEDS OF RESILIENCY** are encouraged to visit www.ironzeal.com.

About IronZeal Films

IronZeal Films is dedicated to creating documentary films that make a difference in our society. Susan Polis Schutz's popular films presented by KPBS and distributed by American Public Television to public television stations include: **ANYONE AND EVERYONE** (2007), **FOLLOWING DREAMS** (2009), **THE MISUNDERSTOOD EPIDEMIC: DEPRESSION** (2010), **OVER 90 AND LOVING IT** (2011) and **SEEDS OF RESILIENCY** (2013).

About KPBS

KPBS serves our local communities with news and entertainment programming that respects our audience with inspiring, intelligent and enlightening content. KPBS will deliver this content via multiple outlets, including television, radio, and digital media and will adapt and remain relevant in a rapidly changing world. KPBS values integrity, truth, transparency and lifelong learning. At KPBS we strive to engage with our citizens and showcase the unique neighborhoods and people that make our community thrive. And as a public service of San Diego State University, education is a core value – from our children's programming to our local news coverage. KPBS is committed to being a reliable source for in-depth, thoughtful, and high quality content.

About American Public Television

American Public Television (APT) has been a leading distributor of top-rated programming to America's public television stations since 1961. For nearly 50 years, APT has distributed approximately half of the top 100 highest-rated public television titles. Among its 300 new program titles per year are prominent documentaries, news and current affairs programs, dramatic series, how-to programs, children's series, and classic movies, including *Rick Steves' Europe*, *Moyers & Company*, *Doc Martin*, *America's Test Kitchen From Cook's Illustrated*, *Nightly Business Report*, *Globe Trekker*, *BBC World News*, *Lidia's Italy*, *Rosemary & Thyme*, *NHK Newslines*, *Simply Ming*, *Midsomer Murders*, *P. Allen Smith's Garden Home*, *The Best of Soul Train*, and *For Love of Liberty: The Story of America's Black Patriots*. APT also licenses programs internationally through its APT Worldwide service. In 2006, APT launched Create® TV — the TV channel featuring the best of public television's lifestyle programming. APT is also a partner in WORLD™, public television's premier news and documentary channel.