

The Story of the Jews — New PBS Series Presented by Acclaimed Author and Filmmaker Simon Schama — to Air March 25 & April 1 on WFYI Public Television

WFYI and Community Partners to Host Local Conversations and Cultural Activities

Designed to Complement *The Story of the Jews* Public Television Series

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Lori Plummer (317) 614-0462 | Iplummer@wfyi.org

Acclaimed author and filmmaker Simon Schama brings to life Jewish history and experience in a new PBS series, *The Story of Jews*, airing Tuesdays, March 25 and April 1, at 8 pm on WFYI 1. The five-hour documentary follows Schama — who has written 15 books; produced 50 films on art, literature and history; and is a contributing editor of the *Financial Times* — as he travels from Russia and the Ukraine to Egypt, Israel and Spain, exploring the imprint that Jewish culture has made on the world and the drama of suffering, resilience and rebirth that has gone with it.

In conjunction with the premiere of *The Story of Jews*, WFYI will feature additional programming and content on air and online that celebrates the contributions and vitality of Jewish life in Indianapolis. Community members of all faiths and backgrounds are welcome to explore the various events WFYI and its partners in the Jewish community will present this spring. Additionally, as part of the Story of the Jews National Education and Outreach Initiative, WFYI encourages high school students across Indiana to participate in an essay contest examining how stories shape our identities. A complete list of these activities is available at http://bit.ly/1h3PDAI

The Story of the Jews, first broadcast in the United Kingdom on BBC in fall 2013, was acclaimed in the British press as "an astonishing achievement, a TV landmark, idiosyncratic, accessible but always authoritative." The documentary includes new archaeological research that is transforming our understanding of the earliest world of the Jews, and highlights evidence from the visual arts — synagogue mosaics, spectacularly illustrated Bibles, the brilliantly colorful decoration of synagogues (contrary to impressions of a monochrome religion), as well as the glorious music that carried Jewish traditions through the centuries.

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About WFYI Public Media:

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