

Levis JCC film festival honors 'Bau, Artist at War' and displays Joseph Bau's art

Staff report

"Bau, Artist at War" was named the winner of the Judy Levis Krug Boca Raton Jewish Film Festival's Audience Choice Award for BEST NARRATIVE.

The film is based on the true story of Joseph and Rebecca Bau, whose wedding took place in the Plaszow concentration camp during WWII, an event immortalized in Steven Spielberg's *Schindler's List*. This film is a war drama, love story and espionage tale that needs to be told in this era where survivors are dying and the Holocaust is slipping from memory. Using his artistic skills and his sense of humour in the camps, Joseph stays alive and helps hundreds to escape. Miraculously, he finds love in the midst of despair—a love that will last a lifetime. Years later, when called to be a key witness in the trial of the brutal Nazi officer who tortured him and killed his father, he is thrust back into vivid memories of the Holocaust and calls upon this love and resilience of spirit to face the ultimate demon of his past.

The movie is based on the book "Dear God! Have you ever gone hungry?" written by Joseph Bau.

During the film festival there were so many people who wanted to watch the movie that it was screened in two theaters.

At the end of the movie there was a panel with Clila and Hadasa Bau,



Joseph and Rebecca Bau. COURTESY

Joseph and Rebecca Bau's daughters who came from Israel, Sean McNamara, the movie director and Deborah Smerecnik, the producer and script writer.

An exhibition with Joseph Bau paintings was on display at the Judi and Allan Schuman Museum Gallery in the Levis JCC in Boca Raton and at the David Posnack JCC in Davie.

Hadasa and Clila are managing the "Joseph Bau House" museum. It used to be their father's studio. He was the first animator in Israel who built all the equipment by himself.

He was one of the first graphic artists, a painter, a poet and a writer who published 10 books.

The museum is currently at risk of closure because the building is facing demolition and Hadasa and Clila will need to build a new museum. They need donations so that this important museum can remain for future generations.

Visit the museum's website at www.josephbau.com

U.S. residents can donate tax deductible through <https://www.causematch.com/en/josephbauhouse/>