

DOCUDRAMA FEATURING INDIAN WOMAN HEROINE PREMIERES IN DC

Enemy of the Reich: The Noor Inayat Khan Story World Premiere Screening at the Warner Theater on February 15th, 8 PM

WASHINGTON, DC January 20, 2014 – She was a Sorbonne graduate of child psychology, an author of a book of fairy tales – and a Muslim covert intelligence officer who died fighting the Nazis. Now, her remarkable story is being brought to the screen in the docudrama *Enemy of the Reich: The Noor Inayat Khan Story*, which will have its world premiere at the Warner Theater in Washington, DC on February 15th.

“Despite the fact that many Muslims played brave roles and sacrificed during World War II, the prevailing narrative of that conflict usually doesn't include any mention,” says Alex Kronemer. Kronemer is co-founder with Michael Wolfe of Unity Productions Foundation, which has produced the award-winning documentaries *Prince Among Slaves* and *Islamic Art: Mirror of the Invisible World*, that have both been aired nationally on PBS.

Khan was the daughter of a Muslim Scholar, Hazrat Inayat Khan and his American wife Ora Ray Baker. Her father founded The Sufi Order in the West in London. After Noor Inayat Khan's birth in Moscow in 1914, the family moved to England, then to Paris in 1920, where she was raised.

In 1940, when the Nazis invaded France, Khan fled to England, where she trained as a wireless operator after joining Britain's Women's Auxiliary Air Force. In early 1943, she began her assignment as a covert operative, joining Winston Churchill's Special Operations Executive (SOE). This organization sought to undermine the Axis powers in occupied Europe via espionage, among other tactics. From Paris, Noor Inayat Khan secretly transmitted messages to Britain.

“For six months she was the only link between the U.K. and the French Resistance, pursued by the Gestapo, betrayed by French collaborators,” says Kronemer. The Nazis arrested her and sent her to the Dachau concentration camp in Germany, where “she fought back against her captors. She escaped twice. She never gave up one name or even her own name,” says Wolfe.

“More Americans need to know the story of Noor Inayat Khan, who fought against one of the most heinous enemies of democracy of the last 100 years,” says NAME OF LOCAL ACTIVIST.

The premiere will take place on DATE, TIME, LOCATION. For Tickets contact _____.

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For more information, please contact NAME OF LOCAL CONTACT, CELL NUMBER AND ONE OTHER NUMBER. You may also visit www.noorkhanfilm.org.

An Interview with the team behind *Enemy of the Reich: The Noor Inayat Khan Story*

How did you first find out about Noor Inayat Khan and what drew you to her story?

ALEX KRONEMER: Michael and I were looking at several stories about Muslim heroes during World War II. Michael came across a reference to Noor Inayat Khan, and we both looked into her story. We were overwhelmed.

MICHAEL WOLFE: There were many Muslims who fought against the Nazis, not only other Indians, but Arabs and Balkan Muslims, too. Her story is not unique in that respect. But whereas many of these other people were men, often fighting alongside other men of arms, she was a woman, alone through most of her ordeal, with only her courage and, very importantly, her faith to carry her through. It's that which made her story most remarkable to us.

Besides being a woman at a time when female intelligence officers were few and far between, how else is her story unique and important?

JAWAAD ABDUL RAHMAN: She appeared to be such an unlikely heroine. She was physically slight, very artistic, and aesthetic. She was not an aggressive person. You would not have expected her to have fought back against her captors as ferociously as she did, or to escape twice from Dachau concentration camp. She never gave up one name or even her own name. She was completely opposed to the Axis forces and what Nazi Germany stood for and very dedicated to the task. Everyone who met her felt she was extraordinary.

ALEX: Despite the fact that many Muslims played brave roles and sacrificed during World War II, the prevailing narrative of that conflict usually doesn't include any mention. A person could watch thousands of hours of documentaries and movies and never know that there were any Muslims involved in the story. But there were, and this is one of the stories.

What role does Noor's faith play in her heroism?

DANIEL: While experiencing a great deal of racism and religious intolerance herself, Noor's father, Inayat Khan, preached an inclusive message that welcomed all races and all faiths to his Sufi Center in Paris. It was this teaching of inclusiveness that made the Nazis so repulsive to her and caused her to risk her life and ultimately die resisting them and everything they stood for. She was very loyal to this work that she did. She died for it and she never betrayed one person who worked with her.

MICHAEL: Her choices in life are so often correct choices - difficult, correct choices that she is a mentor for us, particularly for young Muslims. She was not rigid. She had a wide and penetrating point of view on the world and she was very committed to her ideals.

Why was it easy to gather information about Noor when her work was meant to remain secret?

MICHAEL: Her story had good documentation. There was a real record, written and verifiable almost day by day. The problem with many WWII resistance stories is that people didn't want to write anything down since they were trying not to leave a trail. This story was an exception because Noor was a member of the Secret Operations Executive, which made a point of recording everything. Since its members reported directly to Winston Churchill, they kept an accurate record of everything.

Who is the primary audience for this film and why?

ALEX: While we don't produce films for a specific demographic, we find that they are most popular with three major audiences: people interested in history, high school and college classrooms, as well as community centers and houses of worship.

MICHAEL: We especially hope young Muslims will benefit from sharing stories like Noor Inayat Khan's that bring to light Muslim heroes in all walks of life. It's something that is often missing for Muslim youth in schools, books, and other media. There are many films about American heroes but not many good films about heroic people who happen to be Muslim.

Do you plan on screening the film to audiences outside of the United States?

ALEX: We are connecting with broadcasters and universities in England, France, and Germany as well as in the Middle East and in South Asia. There is considerable interest in the film.

How can Noor Inayat Khan's story relate to the situation and struggles of American Muslims today?

DANIEL: It is a story of fortitude and courage. The irony of her story is that while she fought the racism of the Nazis, in her youth she was subjected to racism in France, and before her, her Indian father was forced to flee America because of racism. Despite this, she always drew from her faith and values to do the right thing. She is an inspiration.

Key bios for the production of *Enemy of the Reich: The Noor Inayat Khan Story*

Robert Gardner, Producer/Director

This three-time Emmy Award-winning documentary film producer, director, and writer's career spans 40 years. His association with UPF and Alex Kronemer has resulted in some of his most memorable films.

Char Gardner, Producer

Char was an artist and teacher before joining the family business full-time in 1990. As the company's Producer and Production Manager, she brings her organizational skills to every production.

Carrie Gardner, Writer

Carrie has an M.F.A in English Language and Literature from Cornell University. Since 2004, she has been a researcher, writer and producer for the family business. She lives in Oklahoma City.

Nick Gardner, Director of Photography

Nick brings three National Emmy nominations to the family business, and has worked in the film and television industry since 1987. His credits include feature films and television movies.

Jeremy Morrison, Editor

Jeremy is an award-winning film and television editor, as well as a visual effects artist who has traveled worldwide in producing and editing for Gardner Films. He studied at the California Institute of the Arts.

Charles Denler, Composer

This composer's multiple Emmy Award-winning music can be heard all over the world. Charles has nearly 200 film and television scores to his credit, and is a classically trained musician.

Pat Moran, Casting Director

Pat has twice won and been nominated seven times for an Emmy Award for outstanding casting. She has worked with national and international directors for many years.

Actress Playing Noor Inayat Khan

Grace Srinivasan is an actress and singer from the Washington D.C. area. The role of Noor Inayat Khan is her first in a film.

Interviews

Pir Zia Inayat-Khan (Noor Inayat Khan's nephew) is a scholar and teacher of Sufism in the lineage of his grandfather, Hazrat Inayat Khan. He is president of the Sufi Order International .

David Ray Harper (Noor Inayat Khan's nephew) is the son of Claire Inayat-Khan, the youngest of the children of Hazrat Inayat-Khan and Ora Ray Baker. He grew up in the family home known as Fazil Manzil.

Dr. Thomas Childers is the Sheldon and Lucy Hackney Professor of History at the University of Pennsylvania. He has lectured in Oxford, Munich and other universities in the U.S. and Europe.

Dr. Homayra Ziad is Assistant Professor in the Department of Religion at Trinity College in Hartford, CT, where she teaches courses on Islam. She is the author of numerous articles and book chapters.

Dr. Juliette Pattinson is a Reader in History at The University of Kent, Canterbury, U.K. Her research on the Special Operations Executive resulted in a popular history book *Secret War* (Caxton, 2001).

Dr. Hanna Diamond is a Reader in French history at the University of Bath, U.K. and author of *Fleeing Hitler: France 1940* (OUP, 2007).

SAMPLE LETTER TO INTERFAITH GROUPS

To: NAME OF INTERFAITH GROUP

From: NAME OF COMMUNITY ACTIVIST

Date: INSERT DATE

Subject: Screening of Film About Muslim WWII Heroine in YOUR CITY on YOUR DATE

Hello:

I am writing to invite you and (NAME OF INTERFAITH GROUP) to participate in an exciting opportunity, the (DATE AND CITY) premiere of *Enemy of the Reich: The Noor Inayat Khan Story*. This film tells the true, little known story of a heroic young Muslim woman who defied the Nazis during World War II.

Enemy of the Reich has been produced by Unity Productions Foundations, whose award-winning films *Prince Among Slaves* and *Muhammad: Legacy of a Prophet* have been aired nationally on PBS.

Noor Inayat Khan was the daughter of an Indian Muslim scholar, Hazrat Inayat Khan, and Ameena Begum, an American convert to Islam. Her father was a teacher of Universal Sufism. In 1940, when the Nazis invaded France, where Noor Inayat Khan was raised, she fled to England. That same year, she trained as a wireless operator after joining Britain's Women's Auxiliary Air Force.

In early 1943, she began her assignment as a covert operative. She joined Winston Churchill's Special Operations Executive (SOE), which sought to undermine the Axis powers in occupied Europe via espionage, among other tactics. From Paris, Noor Inayat Khan secretly transmitted messages to Britain. "For six months she was the only link between the U.K. and the French Resistance, pursued by the Gestapo, betrayed by French collaborators," says Kronemer. However, even after the Nazis arrested her and sent her to Dachau prison camp in Germany, "she fought back against her captors. She escaped twice. She never gave up one name or even her own name," says Wolfe.

"Noor Inayat Khan fought against the Nazis, who opposed everything she believed in about the unity and brother- and sisterhood of humanity. She is an example for all of us," says NAME OF LOCAL MUSLIM INTERFAITH ACTIVIST.

The YOUR CITY premiere of the film will take place DATE, TIME, LOCATION. Tickets are TICKET PRICE and can be purchased from TICKET DETAILS. For more information about the film please visit www.noorkhanfilm.org.

Sincerely,

NAME OF ORGANIZER

SAMPLE LETTER TO PUBLIC SCHOOLS

To: NAME OF PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHER/PRINCIPAL

From: NAME OF COMMUNITY ACTIVIST

Date: INSERT DATE

Subject: Screening of Film about WWII Heroine Connected to Common Core in YOUR CITY

Hello:

I am writing to invite you and your students to participate in an exciting opportunity, the (DATE AND CITY) premiere of *Enemy of the Reich: The Noor Inayat Khan Story*. This film tells the true, little known story of a young Muslim woman who defied the Nazis during World War II.

Enemy of the Reich has been produced by Unity Productions Foundations, whose award-winning films *Prince Among Slaves* and *Muhammad: Legacy of a Prophet* have been aired nationally on PBS, and used widely by educators across the United States.

Noor Inayat Khan was the daughter of an Indian Sufi scholar, Hazrat Inayat Khan, who was from Gujrat, India. In 1940, when the Nazis invaded France, where Noor Inayat Khan was raised, she fled to England. That same year, she trained as a wireless operator after joining Britain's Women's Auxiliary Air Force.

In early 1943, she began her assignment as a covert operative. She joined Winston Churchill's Special Operations Executive (SOE), which sought to undermine the Axis powers in occupied Europe via espionage, among other tactics. From Paris, Noor Inayat Khan secretly transmitted messages to Britain.

"For six months she was the only link between the U.K. and the French Resistance, pursued by the Gestapo, betrayed by French collaborators," says Alex Kronemer, UPF's co-founder with Michael Wolfe. However, even after the Nazis sent her to Dachau prison camp in Germany, "she fought back against her captors. She escaped twice. She never gave up one name or even her own name," says Wolfe.

This film ties in well with Common Core (NAME OF YOUR STATE -PLEASE CONFIRM) standards which expect students in sixth grade and above to be able to evaluate and debate issues relating to World War II orally and in writing. This film can lead to a thought-provoking class discussion about the topic, as well as follow-up essays and written assignments. Please note: due to brief scenes of violence, the film may not be suitable for children under 13. Parents and teachers should use their own discretion.

The YOUR CITY premiere of the film will take place DATE, TIME, LOCATION. We would like to offer you and your students free tickets. However, we request that all of them be used. Thank you for your time and attention. We look forward to seeing you and your students at the premiere of *Enemy of the Reich*:

The Noor Inayat Khan Story. For more information please visit www.noorkhanfilm.org.

Sincerely,

NAME OF ORGANIZER

SAMPLE LETTER TO ISLAMIC SCHOOLS

To: NAME OF ISLAMIC SCHOOL TEACHER/PRINCIPAL

From: NAME OF COMMUNITY ACTIVIST

Date: INSERT DATE

Subject: Screening of Film About Muslim WWII Heroine in YOUR CITY on YOUR DATE

Assalamu alaikum:

I am writing to invite you and your students to participate in an exciting opportunity, the (DATE AND CITY) premiere of *Enemy of the Reich: The Noor Inayat Khan Story*. This film tells the true, little known story of a young Muslim woman who defied the Nazis during World War II.

Enemy of the Reich has been produced by Unity Productions Foundations, whose award-winning films *Prince Among Slaves* and *Muhammad: Legacy of a Prophet* have been aired nationally on PBS, and used widely by educators and activists across the United States.

Noor Inayat Khan was the daughter of an Indian Muslim scholar, Hazrat Inayat Khan, and Ameena Begum, an American convert to Islam. Her father was a teacher of Universal Sufism. In 1940, when the Nazis invaded France, where Khan was raised, she fled to England. That same year, Khan trained as a wireless operator after joining Britain's Women's Auxiliary Air Force.

In early 1943, she began her assignment as a covert operative. She joined Winston Churchill's Special Operations Executive (SOE), which sought to undermine the Axis powers in occupied Europe via espionage, among other tactics. From Paris, Noor Inayat Khan secretly transmitted messages to Britain. "For six months she was the only link between the U.K. and the French Resistance, pursued by the Gestapo, betrayed by French collaborators," says Alex Kronemer, UPF's co-founder and executive director of the film with Michael Wolfe. However, even after the Nazis arrested her and sent her to Dachau prison camp in Germany, "she fought back against her captors. She escaped twice. She never gave up one name or even her own name," says Wolfe.

This film ties in well with Common Core (NAME OF YOUR STATE -PLEASE CONFIRM) standards which expect students in sixth grade and above to be able to evaluate and debate issues relating to World War II orally and in writing. This film can lead to a thought-provoking class discussion about the topic, as well as follow-up essays and written assignments. It also offers a chance to highlight the positive role Muslims played in World War II, which is rarely discussed. Please note: due to brief scenes of violence, the film may not be suitable for children under 13. Parents and teachers should use their own discretion.

The YOUR CITY premiere of the film will take place DATE, TIME, LOCATION. We would like to offer you and your students free tickets. However, we request that all of them be used. Thank you for your time and attention. We look forward to seeing you and your students at the premiere of *Enemy of the Reich: The Noor Inayat Khan Story*. For more information please visit www.noorkhanfilm.org.

Sincerely,

NAME OF ORGANIZER

SAMPLE LETTER TO INDIAN CULTURAL GROUPS

To: NAME OF INDIAN CULTURAL ORGANIZATION'S CONTACT PERSON

From: NAME OF COMMUNITY ACTIVIST

Date: INSERT DATE

Subject: Screening of Film About Indian WWII Heroine in YOUR CITY on YOUR DATE

Hello:

I am writing to invite you and members of (NAME OF GROUP) to participate in an exciting opportunity, the (DATE AND CITY) premiere of *Enemy of the Reich: The Noor Inayat Khan Story*. This film tells the true, little known story of a heroic young Indian woman who defied the Nazis during World War II.

Noor Inayat Khan was the daughter of an Indian Sufi scholar, Hazrat Inayat Khan, who was from Gujrat, India. In 1940, when the Nazis invaded France, where Noor Inayat Khan was raised, she fled to England. That same year, she trained as a wireless operator after joining Britain's Women's Auxiliary Air Force. In early 1943, she began her assignment as a covert operative. She joined Winston Churchill's Special

Operations Executive (SOE), which sought to undermine the Axis powers in occupied Europe via espionage, among other tactics. From Paris, Noor Inayat Khan secretly transmitted messages to Britain. "This is someone who saw the moral imperative to support the Allied Forces against the Axis powers in the Second World War, despite the fact that Britain was occupying and colonizing India, and that she supported the Indian independence movement," explains Michael Wolfe, the film's executive producer with Alex Kronemer.

"For six months she was the only link between the U.K. and the French Resistance, pursued by the Gestapo, betrayed by French collaborators," says Kronemer. However, even after the Nazis arrested her and sent her to Dachau prison camp in Germany, "she fought back against her captors. She escaped twice. She never gave up one name or even her own name," says Wolfe.

"This film offers viewers an excellent opportunity to learn more about an Indian heroine of WWII, something rarely highlighted in mainstream films" says NAME OF LOCAL INDIAN-AMERICAN ACTIVIST. The YOUR CITY premiere of *Enemy of the Reich* will take place DATE, TIME, LOCATION. Tickets are TICKET PRICE and can be purchased from TICKET DETAILS. For more information about the film please visit www.noorkhanfilm.org.

Sincerely,

NAME OF ORGANIZER

SAMPLE LETTER TO JEWISH GROUPS

To: NAME OF JEWISH ORGANIZATION'S CONTACT PERSON

From: NAME OF COMMUNITY ACTIVIST

Date: INSERT DATE

Subject: Screening of Film About Muslim Woman Who Fought Nazis in YOUR CITY on YOUR DATE

Hello:

I am writing to invite you and members of (NAME OF JEWISH ORGANIZATION) to the premiere of *Enemy of the Reich: The Noor Inayat Khan Story* on (YOUR DATE, YOUR TIME, AND YOUR PLACE). This film tells the true, little known story of a heroic young Muslim woman who fought the Nazis in World War II.

"She was completely, 100 percent opposed to the Axis forces and what Nazi Germany stood for and very dedicated to the task," says Michael Wolfe, co-executive producer of the film with Alex Kronemer.

Noor Inayat Khan was the daughter of an Indian Muslim scholar, Hazrat Inayat Khan, and Ameena Begum, an American convert to Islam. In 1940, when the Nazis invaded France, Khan fled to England, where she trained as a wireless operator after joining Britain's Women's Auxiliary Air Force.

In early 1943, she began her assignment as a covert operative. She joined Winston Churchill's Special Operations Executive (SOE), which sought to undermine the Axis powers in occupied Europe via espionage, among other tactics. From Paris, she secretly transmitted messages to Britain.

"For six months she was the only link between the U.K. and the French Resistance, pursued by the Gestapo, betrayed by French collaborators," says Kronemer. However, even after the Nazis arrested her and sent her to Dachau prison camp in Germany, "she fought back against her captors. She escaped twice. She never gave up one name or even her own name," says Wolfe. In 1944, the Nazis executed Khan. She was 30 years old.

“Noor Inayat Khan presents a tangible demonstration of a Muslim challenging anti-Semitism and the worst manifestation of hate and genocide over the last 100 years. Her story is one that more Jews and Muslims in America and abroad need to know about,” says (NAME OF LOCAL ACTIVIST).

The YOUR CITY premiere of the film will take place DATE, TIME, LOCATION. Tickets are TICKET PRICE and can be purchased from TICKET DETAILS. For more information about the film please visit www.noorkhanfilm.org.

Sincerely,

NAME OF ORGANIZER

SAMPLE LETTER TO MUSLIM MEDIA GROUPS/PUBLICATIONS

To: NAME OF ASSIGNMENT EDITOR, NAME OF MUSLIM PUBLICATION

From: NAME OF COMMUNITY ACTIVIST

Date: INSERT DATE

Subject: Screening of Film About Muslim WWII Heroine in YOUR CITY on YOUR DATE

Assalamu alaikum:

I am writing to invite you and (NAME OF MUSLIM PUBLICATION) to cover an exciting story at the (CITY AND DATE) premiere of *Enemy of the Reich: The Noor Inayat Khan Story*. This film tells the true, little known biography of a heroic Muslim woman who defied the Nazis during World War II.

Enemy of the Reich has been produced by Unity Productions Foundations, whose award-winning films *Prince Among Slaves* and *Muhammad: Legacy of a Prophet* have been aired nationally on PBS.

Noor Inayat Khan was the daughter of an Indian Muslim scholar, Hazrat Inayat Khan, and Ameena Begum, an American convert to Islam. Her father was a teacher of Universal Sufism. In 1940, when the Nazis invaded France, where Noor Inayat Khan was raised, she fled to England. There, she trained as a wireless operator and in early 1943, she began her assignment as a covert operative. She joined Winston Churchill's Special Operations Executive (SOE), which sought to undermine the Axis powers in occupied Europe via espionage, among other tactics. From Paris, Noor Inayat Khan secretly transmitted messages to Britain.

“For six months she was the only link between the U.K. and the French Resistance, pursued by the Gestapo, betrayed by French collaborators,” says Alex Kronemer, co-executive producer of the film with Michael Wolfe. However, even after the Nazis arrested her and sent her to Dachau prison camp in Germany, “she fought back against her captors. She escaped twice. She never gave up one name or even her own name,” says Wolfe.

“The story of Noor Inayat Khan must be made known to more Americans, and non-Muslims in general. She fought against one of the most heinous enemies of democracy of the last 100 years, and she is an example of how Muslims were directly involved in fighting what is often called the 'good war'”, says NAME OF LOCAL MUSLIM ACTIVIST.

The YOUR CITY premiere of the film will take place DATE, TIME, LOCATION. We would like to offer you free tickets to cover *Enemy Of The Reich* for NAME OF PUBLICATION. For more information about the film please visit www.noorkhanfilm.org.

Sincerely,

NAME OF ORGANIZER

SAMPLE LETTER TO CONGRESSPERSON

This a sample letter you send to your Congressperson inviting them to the premiere of *Enemy of The Reich: The Noor Inayat Khan Story*. Please fill in the appropriate details. You can find your Congressperson's details and address at <http://www.house.gov/representatives/find/>

(TODAY'S DATE)

The Honorable (FULL NAME)

(ROOM #) (NAME) House Office Building

United States House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative:

As a resident of (YOUR DISTRICT NUMBER) I am writing to invite you to speak at the (NAME OF YOUR CITY) film premiere of *Enemy Of The Reich: The Noor Inayat Khan Story* on (YOUR DATE). This docudrama tells the true, little known story of a heroic Muslim woman who fought the Nazis during World War II.

As someone who seeks to build bridges of understanding between Americans of all faiths, races, and cultures, you would be an ideal speaker to open this event dedicated to a woman who fought for freedom for all. We are expecting a diverse audience of 300 people from (YOUR CITY), as well as (NAMES OF CITIES AND TOWNS IN YOUR DISTRICT), along with a number of our partner organizations (LIST TWO OR THREE MAJOR ONES).

Enemy of the Reich focuses on the life of Noor Inayat Khan, who was a covert operative in Winston Churchill's Special Operations Executive (SOE) during World War II. This organization sought to undermine the Axis powers in occupied Europe via espionage, among other tactics. From Paris, Noor Inayat Khan secretly transmitted messages to Britain.

"For six months she was the only link between the U.K. and the French Resistance, pursued by the Gestapo, betrayed by French collaborators," says Alex Kronemer, co-executive producer with Michael Wolfe of the film. However, even after the Nazis arrested her and sent her to Dachau prison camp in Germany, "she fought back against her captors. She escaped twice. She never gave up one name or even her own name," says Wolfe. In 1944, the Nazis executed Khan. She was 30 years old.

"This film offers all Americans an excellent opportunity to learn more about a courageous Muslim from WWII who paid the ultimate price for the freedom and democracy we enjoy today," says LOCAL MUSLIM ACTIVIST.

Thank you for your time and attention. I look forward to hearing from you about your attendance at this exciting event.

Sincerely,

YOUR NAME

YOUR ADDRESS

YOUR TELEPHONE NUMBER (CELL)

YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS

