



UNIVERSITY OF SAINT JOSEPH

CONNECTICUT

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Contact: Cynthia Whitcomb, Associate Vice President for Marketing, Media and Communications

Telephone: 860-231-5387

Email: cwhitcomb@usj.edu

The True Story of *Argo* at the University of Saint Joseph Film & Lecture by Ken Taylor, Former Canadian Ambassador

WEST HARTFORD, Conn. (September 24, 2013) – The University of Saint Joseph will present a two-part event focused on *Argo*, the 1979 rescue of American Embassy workers in Iran. The program will begin on October 7, 2013 with a film screening of the 2012 Academy award-winning film, *Argo*, followed by a talk on October 9, 2013 by Ken Taylor, former Canadian Ambassador to Iran, who managed the mission depicted in the film. Taylor is portrayed in the film by actor Victor Garber. Both events will take place in the Hoffman Auditorium of the Bruyette Athenaeum, located on the University's main campus at 1678 Asylum Avenue, West Hartford, Conn. Tickets are available online at tickets.usj.edu, or by phone at 860.231.5555.

- The screening of *Argo* will begin at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, October 7, preceded by introductory remarks delivered by Dr. Scott Higgins, assistant professor of Film Studies at Wesleyan University, at 6:30 p.m. All tickets: \$8.
- The University and the World Affairs Council of Connecticut will host Mr. Taylor on Wednesday, October 9 at 7:30 p.m. "Ken Taylor: The True Story of the *Argo* Rescue" will offer a factual, insider's look at the events surrounding the rescue in the midst of the Iranian hostage crisis. Tickets are \$20 for adults; \$15 for senior citizens and World Affairs Council members.

Since its 2012 release, the film has been criticized for its historic inaccuracies — particularly for minimizing the role the Canadian Embassy played during the rescue. Taylor hid the six Americans in his residence as did his deputy, John Shearsdown, who was not even mentioned in the film. They directly managed the CIA's plan to disguise the Americans as a Canadian film crew, and were able to sneak them safely out of Iran.

After the film played at the Toronto Film Festival, director Ben Affleck met with Taylor and asked him to write the post script that appears at the end of the film. A trusted civil servant who was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal in 1981 by President Ronald Reagan, Taylor handled the inaccuracies with diplomacy and grace. He wrote, "The involvement of the CIA

complemented efforts of the Canadian Embassy to free the six held in Tehran. To this day the story stands as an enduring model of international cooperation between governments.”

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The University of Saint Joseph (USJ) offers a wide range of graduate, undergraduate, and certificate programs that combine a professional and liberal arts education with a focus on service. Coeducational graduate master’s and doctoral degree programs are taught on the University’s two campuses in West Hartford and Hartford, Connecticut; at off-campus locations throughout the state; and online. Undergraduate programs for women and for coeducational adult students take place on our beautiful suburban campus and include more than 22 majors and six pre-professional programs, each of which provides personal attention in a caring environment. Founded in 1932 by the Sisters of Mercy, the University of Saint Joseph welcomes students from diverse backgrounds and religious traditions. To learn more, view our website at www.usj.edu.

OFFICE OF MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS

1678 Asylum Avenue ♦ West Hartford, Connecticut 06117-2791 ♦ Tel: 860-231-5204 ♦ Fax: 860-231-5882