



**MTV NEWS & DOCS COMMEMORATES THE 60th ANNIVERSARY OF THE
END OF WWII AND THE HOLOCAUST WITH THE DOCUMENTARY,
“I’M STILL HERE”**

**Set to Air on May 4th at 8PM, Documentary Will Feature Real Diaries
of Young People Who Lived During the Holocaust As Read By Kate Hudson,
Joaquin Phoenix, Oliver Hudson, Brittany Murphy, Elijah Wood, Amber Tamblyn,
and Ryan Gosling**

**“I’m Still Here” Will be Narrated by MTV News’ John Norris
With a Special Introduction from Zach Braff and Music by Moby**

New York, NY, – MTV’s award-winning News & Docs department will commemorate the anniversary of the Holocaust with *I’m Still Here*, an hour-long documentary film that brings to life the diaries of young people who witnessed first-hand the horrors of the Holocaust. Through an emotional montage of archival footage, personal photos, and text from the diaries themselves, the film tells the story of a group of brave, young writers who refused to quietly disappear. *I’m Still Here* will premiere on MTV on Wednesday, May 4th at 8pm (ET/PT).

MTV News’ **John Norris** will narrate the documentary with a special introduction from **Zach Braff** and music by Moby. The diaries are read by some of today’s most talented young actors including **Elijah Wood, Ryan Gosling, Kate Hudson, Oliver Hudson, Brittany Murphy, Amber Tamblyn, and Joaquin Phoenix** among others. Original footage was shot in Vilnius, Lithuania in the remnants of the old Jewish ghetto.

"The stories featured in 'I'm Still Here' illustrate the strength and courage of these young people in such a personal way that that is difficult to replicate in a history book," commented Dave Sirulnick, EVP of MTV News & Production. "We're honored to be sharing these writers' experiences with our audience, and possibly helping them connect to this previous generation in ways that they may not have expected to."

“These diaries remind us that even in the face of annihilation it can be a worthy act of defiance to write down your story and proclaim to the world, ‘I exist...I’m still here,’” said Director Lauren Lazin (Academy Award Nominee, *Tupac: Resurrection*). “We hope that the stories of these determined young writers will inspire our audience as well as educate them.”

I'm Still Here builds upon MTV's long-standing commitment to addressing issues of discrimination. In 2001, MTV launched its award-winning ***Take A Stand Against Discrimination*** campaign, an ongoing pro-social initiative focused on empowering young people to fight discrimination in their communities and in themselves. The campaign addresses the most prevalent forms of discrimination in our communities today, including those based on race, religion, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation and physical and/or mental ability.

The diaries of these young people were collected for the first time in the award-winning book, ***Salvaged Pages: Young Writers' Diaries of the Holocaust***, written by Alexandra Zapruder and published in spring 2002 by Yale University Press. A founding staff member of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, Ms. Zapruder spent ten years compiling dozens of diaries kept by children and young adults during the Holocaust. Living in ghettos, in hiding, and as refugees, these young people recorded their experiences and impressions in any way they could: they smuggled paper, stole pencils, and wrote on the back of leaflets and in the margins of published books. Their determination to document their lives and to mark their places in the world speaks to the courage of each individual writer and the essential value of communication and legacy through the written word.

I'm Still Here will also be donated to the **U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum** and **Simon Wiesenthal Center** to be screened as a part of their permanent collection. In addition, the educational partner **Facing History and Ourselves**, is working with the filmmakers to design a curriculum that will accompany the film for use in schools throughout the country.

The film has been generously funded by **MTV, Steven Spielberg's Righteous Persons' Foundation, The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation, and The Lazlo N. Tauber Family Foundation.**

Executive Producers for "I'm Still Here" are Van Toffler and Dave Sirulnick. Lauren Lazin is the Director. Alexandra Zapruder and Allison Leikind are Producers and Katy Garfield is the Co-Producer. Richard Calderon is the Editor and Director of Photography is Kyle Kibbe.

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CONTACTS:

Janine Iamunno
MTV

212-846-6992

Janine.iamunno@mtvstaff.com

Jennifer DeGuzman
MTV

212-846-7175

Jennifer.deguzman@mtvstaff.com