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## **“HAVA NAGILA (THE MOVIE)” PREMIERES OPENING NIGHT AT SAN FRANCISCO JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL**

**WORLD PREMIERE WILL TAKE PLACE JULY 19 AT THE CASTRO THEATER**

Hollywood, CA (June 19, 2012) – The San Francisco Jewish Film Festival today announced that the feature documentary *Hava Nagila (The Movie)* will kick off its 32nd festival on July 19, with its World Premiere at the Castro Theater. The film will then screen at the festival’s venues in Palo Alto (July 29), Berkeley (August 1) and San Rafael (August 4).

“We are thrilled to premiere *Hava Nagila (The Movie)* at the San Francisco Jewish Film Festival,” says director Roberta Grossman. “We shot much of the film in the Bay Area. In addition, our production company, Katahdin Productions, is based in Berkeley. It’s an honor to be the Opening Night film. We think the film’s celebratory spirit is a perfect match for this type of special event.”

Featuring interviews with Harry Belafonte, Leonard Nimoy, Connie Francis, Glen Campbell, Regina Spektor and more, *Hava Nagila (The Movie)* is a documentary romp through the history, mystery and meaning of the great Jewish standard. It follows the ubiquitous party song on its fascinating journey from the *shtetls* of Eastern Europe to the *kibbutzim* of Palestine to the *cul-de-sacs* of America. High on fun and entertainment, *Hava Nagila (The Movie)* is also surprisingly profound, tapping into universal themes about the importance of joy, the power of music and the resilient spirit of a people.

Director Grossman reteamed with her partners on the documentary *Blessed Is the Match: The Life and Death of Hannah Senesh* to bring the story of *Hava Nagila* to the screen. They include producer Marta Kauffman (creator of the TV series *Friends*), writer Sophie Sartain, editor Chris Callister and executive producer Lisa Thomas. For more information and to see the sample reel that has gone viral with over 500,00 views, visit [www.havanagilamovie.com](http://www.havanagilamovie.com).

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Founded by Lisa Thomas, the co-founder and former CEO of Clif Bar, Inc., Katahdin Productions is a not-for-profit, 501(c)(3) corporation based in Berkeley, California. Katahdin’s mission is to tell compelling stories often ignored by the mainstream media – stories that inform, entertain and inspire. Katahdin is dedicated to creating high quality documentary films, educational materials and media projects that open minds, provoke dialogue and encourage positive social change – outstanding works that touch the soul as they sound a call to action.