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WGUV Productions Presents *Defying Hitler*

(Grand Rapids, MI, March 1, 2006) In 2004, WGUV Productions traveled with Joseph Stevens and his son to revisit the places of Joe's past. Joe was part of the Polish underground. He was a hero. In the days of World War II, he was a shadow. *Defying Hitler*, which premiered in June 2005, tells the story of this journey, and Joe's struggle to defend a secret without betraying himself.

During the course of their trip, Joe was reunited with his old friend from the underground, Tolek. Even as a friend, Tolek had not known that Joe was Jewish until years after the war. He had posed as a Catholic during the war, hiding his true identity from both sides of the fight. In the face of the underground, to reveal his secret would have meant persecution; in the face of Nazi occupation, it would have meant death. WGUV also took Joe to revisit his childhood home – only the second time he would return there since fleeing before the war.

This emotional thirty-minute film was produced and directed by WGUV Production Manager Philip A. Lane. WGUV General Manager Michael T. Walenta and Assistant General Manager Ken Kolbe served as Executive Producers. Joseph Stevens himself wrote the book that inspired the film, *Good Morning*, which was published by Grand Valley State University.

Defying Hitler has received a 2005 Crystal Award of Excellence from the Communicator Awards, a 2005 Gold Millennium Award and a 2006 Bronze Telly Award, all for excellence in the documentary film categories.

WGUV's continued mission is to provide educational, informative, and entertaining programs and events to the West Michigan community as a service of Grand Valley State University.

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