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**FEATURE DOCUMENTARY ABOUT ITALIAN WAR CRIMES IN ETHIOPIA
LAUNCHES KICKSTARTER CAMPAIGN ON ETHIOPIAN MARTYRS' DAY (FEB. 19 2014)
WITH PRESENTATIONS IN WASHINGTON, ATLANTA, NEW YORK**

Washington, DC — After a year of pre-production and filming, today Awen Films is launching a Kickstarter campaign for the upcoming documentary *If Only I Were That Warrior*, directed by Valerio Ciriaci. This crowdfunding campaign is a fundamental stage in the film's production, and will ensure its completion in time for a release early next year. Alongside the Kickstarter launch, Mr. Ciriaci and producer Isaak Liptzin will be presenting their project in person during events commemorating the Ethiopian victims of Fascist Italy, in Washington, DC on February 19th, in Atlanta on February 23rd, and in New York on March 1st 2014.

If Only I Were That Warrior is a film about the Italian occupation of Ethiopia in 1935 and its unresolved legacy today. Driving this investigation is the story of a recently constructed monument in Affile, Italy to Rodolfo Graziani, a Fascist general remembered for war crimes committed during the intervention in Ethiopia. The monument is sparking protests within the Ethiopian community in the U.S. and has brought this chapter of history back to the forefront of public discourse.

The documentary is set in Ethiopia, Italy, New York and Dallas. In the last year the crew traveled to all of these locations and gathered approximately half of the necessary footage. Now, in order to wrap up production, the filmmakers are reaching out directly to their audience with this fundraising campaign, that has a goal of \$17500 and will last 30 days (February 19 - March 21).

Kickstarter is a platform that allows independent artists to get directly in touch with their audience and find funding for their projects. In the case of *If Only I Were That Warrior*, the donations will cover expenses such as airfare, equipment rental, and interpreters. Those who donate to the project are eligible to receive various rewards from the production team, among which DVDs, T-Shirts and vintage postcards.

Director Valerio Ciriaci and producer Isaak Liptzin will mark the launch of the fundraising effort in Washington, DC on February 19th 2014 by participating in the demonstration against the monument to Graziani in front of the Italian Embassy. The following Sunday, February 23rd, they will be traveling to Atlanta to present the film and screen some video clips at the Clarkson Community Center during an Ethiopian community event focusing on Fascist war crimes. Finally, on March 1st they will join the Global Alliance for Justice - The Ethiopian Cause at the New York Society for Ethical Culture for a panel discussion about the monument and the legacy of the Italian-Ethiopian war.

If Only I Were That Warrior is produced by Awen Films, an independent documentary film production company based in New York City. More information can be found at <http://www.ifonlyiwereathatwarrior.com>. The Kickstarter campaign can be found at <https://www.kickstarter.com/projects/awenfilms/if-only-i-were-that-warrior-a-documentary>.

Scheduled Events:

Washington, DC — 10am - Italian Embassy (3000 Whitehaven St NW)
Atlanta, GA — 3:30pm - Clarkston Community Center (3701 College Ave, Clarkston, GA)
New York, NY — 1pm - New York Society for Ethical Culture (2 W 64th St)

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