



# Shoah

## *Ambassadors*

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### **Curtis Bates, Ambassador, and Detroit Children's Choir to close out the hour-long film, Shoah Ambassadors**

**Detroit - (October 8, 2021)** – Michigan-based production company, Visionalist Entertainment Productions, headed by Director/Producer Keith Famie, are concluding their production for ***Shoah Ambassadors***, a documentary film about the Holocaust with a contemporary angle of telling the story through art.

Famie and his team have been working for over 18 months on this film that they hope will engage a younger, non-Jewish audience. ***Shoah Ambassadors*** centers around two, local, twenty-year-old individuals who have been selected to tell the story of the Holocaust through their own unique artistic expression.

Hailey Callahan, a graduate of the College for Creative Studies, is a fine arts major whose medium inspired her to recreate a train car out of stained glass to tell how the Nazis used trains to transport prisoners. Curtis Bates is a rapper/songwriter from Detroit whose use of lyrics through two rap songs will help illustrate general themes of the Holocaust, and at the same time, generate an interest for a younger generation.

Bates wrote and recorded two songs for the film and has just finished recording a third song, "Never Again." Director/Producer Keith Famie and Curtis discussed a final closing song that can speak to society that was not just about the Holocaust but any future genocide or cultural persecution. The song "Never Again" came to fruition during production after Bates and Michigan-based Holocaust survivor and painter, Rene Lichtman, had a one-on-one interview at Lichtman's home. Since Lichtman has an artistic expression of his own, he decided to create a painting called "Never Again." This painting is unveiled during Bates' song at the close of the film. It was a large production filmed throughout selected iconic Detroit landmarks, including the Monument to Joe Louis A.K.A. "The Fist", Second Baptist Church, The Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History, Eastern Market, and several others.

This song features nine members from the Detroit Children's Choir who joined us to film the music video. The Detroit Children's Choir was founded in 2006 by Carol Schoch, who identified a need for quality choral musical experiences targeted toward under-served youth in Detroit. Since then, the DCC has used the power of choral music education as a cultural platform to foster musical excellence and to build an inclusive community of confident, focused, and creative youth within Southeastern Michigan. They have performed throughout Michigan with well-known performers including Big Sean, Jill Jack, and Gark Mavigan.

Bates and each member of the DCC wore t-shirts chosen to illustrate themes of justice, equality, and kindness for all humans. The t-shirts displayed such brands as Black Lives Matter, Detroit vs. Everybody, the Human Rights Campaign, and others, shown as they sang their way through the streets of Detroit.

This is the third song that Curtis and Famie have collaborated on for the film. The first, "Stolen Dreams," is featured early in the film as Curtis reflects on what Hitler and the Nazi regime had done during their reign of power. The other song featured is a brief breakdown of Curtis' life called "A Life Through Song."

The Detroit Children's Choir, along with Michigan-based Holocaust survivors, joined Curtis to sing the final lyrics of the song "Never Again" on October 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Berman Center for the Performing Arts for the final, closing scene.

***Shoah Ambassadors*** will premiere at community showing on November 11<sup>th</sup> with the debut on DPTV/ PBS on November 18<sup>th</sup>.

To learn more about the film, please go to <https://shoahambassadors.com/>.