



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Nazi Olympics Berlin 1936 Features Ohio's Own Jesse Owens Opening at Maltz Museum October 19, 2010

Cleveland, Ohio – October 14, 2010 – In August, 1936, all attention turned to the Olympic Games being held in Berlin. A swift young athlete from East Tech High School in Cleveland, Jesse Owens, had captured national attention for his record-breaking feats at The Ohio State University, and made the American team.

Owens had more to overcome than the competition. Adolf Hitler's Nazi dictatorship was growing stronger, and aimed to use the Summer Olympics as a huge propaganda event. Soft-pedaling its anti-Semitic agenda and plans for territorial expansion, the regime exploited the Games to dazzle many foreign spectators and journalists with an image of a peaceful, tolerant Germany.

The Maltz Museum of Jewish Heritage is proud to present *The Nazi Olympics Berlin 1936*, produced by the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. This stunning look at how world politics, sports, and racism converged in Germany explores the issues surrounding the 1936 Games--the Nazis' use of propaganda, the intense boycott debate, the history of the torch run, the historic performance of Jesse Owens and more. Video testimonials from Olympians and boycotters will be featured, along with an original torch from that year's Games, historical photographs and film footage. The Maltz Museum has added several items of Owens' personal memorabilia, courtesy of The Ohio State University's collection, including his diary from the voyage to Berlin, one of his gold medals and a trophy won at East Tech High School in 1932.

During the summer of 1936, America sweltered through a heat wave and endured the depths of the Great Depression. In Cleveland, Safety Director Elliott Ness fought the mob and searched for the Torso Murderer, while the opening of the Great Lakes Expo attracted millions to the lakefront. To accompany the exhibition, the Maltz Museum takes a nostalgic look back at major local, national and world events.

"As a Museum of diversity and tolerance, we're always looking for special exhibitions that appeal to both the head and the heart and highlight the lessons of history," notes Judi Feniger, Maltz Museum Executive Director. "The Nazi Olympics, with its stories of politics and racism, propaganda and intrigue, physical prowess and mental pressure, intertwined with the pomp and spectacle of the Olympics, offers a compelling experience for visitors of all ages."

A season-long offering of informative programs, performances and lectures at the Museum and around town will illuminate the themes of the exhibition, highlighted with a lecture by Dr. Rusty Wilson, author of <u>The Ohio State University at the Olympics</u> (November 17), and a panel discussion featuring Northeast Ohio Olympians Harrison Dillard, Carol Heiss Jenkins and Diana Munz DePetro, moderated by President and CEO of the Greater Cleveland Sports Commission, David Gilbert (December 8).





The Nazi Olympics is presented by the Cleveland Browns, Cleveland Cavaliers and Cleveland Indians, with support from KeyCorp. The Maltz Museum is generously supported by Cuyahoga Arts and Culture and the Ohio Arts Council. Special thanks to The Ohio State University for the loan of items from The Jesse Owens Collection.

Docent-led tours can be reserved daily for adult and student groups of ten or more, with discounts for groups of 15+ (reservations required). Packs of 35 or more tickets are available at a discounted price. The Museum Store, open whenever the Museum is, will carry exhibition catalogs and related merchandise, and offers free gift wrapping. Parking adjacent to the Museum is free, and includes close-in handicapped spaces, and wheelchairs can be reserved in advance. The Museum is a stunning venue for a range of private events with exclusive viewing of the exhibition; details and pricing on request.

Learn more at <u>www.maltzmuseum.org</u>, 216-593-0575, become a friend on Facebook, or tweet with us on Twitter.

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About the Maltz Museum of Jewish Heritage: An American Story

Opened in 2005, the Maltz Museum of Jewish Heritage introduces visitors to the beauty and diversity of that heritage in the context of the American experience, promotes an understanding of Jewish history, religion and culture and builds bridges of tolerance and understanding with people of all religions, races, cultures and ethnic backgrounds. It includes An American Story, tracing Ohio's immigrant history and heritage, and The Temple-Tifereth Israel Gallery, an internationally-recognized collection of Judaica. One admission fee includes unlimited access, and all levels of membership include unlimited admission. The Museum was created as a partnership of The Maltz Family Foundation, the Jewish Community Federation's Centennial Initiative and The Temple-Tifereth Israel, with research support from the Western Reserve Historical Society.



October 19, 2010 – January 23, 2011 Maltz Museum of Jewish Heritage

Admission & Tours

ADMISSION

Includes access to entire museum, including special exhibitions

- Maltz Museum members and children under 5 years: FREE
- Adults: \$12
- Seniors and Students ages 12+: \$10
- Children ages 5-11: \$5
- Ticket Packs of 35 or more: \$7 per ticket

TOURS

Group Tours are available by advance reservation daily, including Mondays. Admission includes a guided tour of the permanent or special exhibition led by knowledgeable docents, seamless, no-wait access to the exhibitions and a 10% discount to the Museum Store.

- Advance reservation required for groups of 10 or more.
- Special discounted rates for groups of 15 or more...Adults: \$8; Seniors/Students: \$6 (Groups of 14 or less charged regular admission)
- Additional discounts available for groups 35 and above. Call for details.
- School groups are \$3/student (1 teacher/chaperone per ten students admitted free).

Contact groupsales@mmjh.org or call 216.593.0575 to schedule a tour or for more information.

Drop-In Tours

Starting October 24, Drop-In Tours will be available for *The Nazi Olympics* every Sunday at 2 p.m.; also Wednesdays and Sundays at 2 p.m. for *An American Story*. Groups of 10 or more should secure an advance reservation.

Museum Hours

Open for reserved group tours and private events beginning at 9 a.m. Open to the public Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday: 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Wednesday: 11 a.m. - 9 p.m.Saturday: Noon - 5 p.m.

Monday: Closed (open by reservation for tours and events)

HOLIDAY HOURS: Thanksgiving - Thursday, November 26 (CLOSED)

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Programs

Accompanying *The Nazi Olympics*, the Maltz Museum of Jewish Heritage will present a series of lectures, films and conversations about sports, the Holocaust and Cleveland history.

All events are at the Maltz Museum of Jewish Heritage and free with museum admission unless otherwise indicated. Reservations are suggested. For more information or to purchase tickets call 216.593.0575 or email info@mmjh.org.

Watermarks Wednesday, October 27 ...7pm \$10/\$8 members

An uplifting tale of survival and friendship, this documentary tells the story of champion women swimmers of Vienna's legendary Jewish sports club, *Hakoah*. Although the team virtually dominated national competitions in the 1930s, Hitler's rise to power had devastating effects on the women and their place in sports history.

Meet Me on Lake Erie, Dearie!: Cleveland's Great Lakes Exposition 1936-1937 Wednesday, November 3...7pm Free with Museum admission

Hear Cleveland historian and author **John Vacha** bring to life a city hit hard by the Great Depression and in need of the romance, drama and entertainment of the Great Lakes Exposition. From the Streets of the World bazaar, to the Court of Presidents to the famous Billy Rose Aquacade, learn about the two exciting summers of this famous fair.

Should America Boycott the 1936 Olympic Games? Sunday, November 7...1pm Free with Museum Admission

Join this lively, historic debate presented by local teen members of the **Junior State of America**, a national organization dedicated to strengthening American democracy by educating and preparing high school students for life-long involvement and responsible leadership in a democratic society. Students will debate the question of American involvement in the 1936 Olympics with plenty of interaction from the audience. Prepare to be challenged!

Jesse Owens and the 1936 Berlin Olympics Wednesday, November 17...7pm \$10/\$8 members

Hear **Dr. Rusty Wilson**, author of *Ohio State University at the Olympics* and recipient of the 2009 Vikelas Plaque of the International Society of Olympic Historians, bring to life Jesse Owens' historic triumph over Nazi ideology in this fascinating, illustrated presentation that also examines America's decision not to boycott and the last minute replacement of Jewish runners Marty Glickman and Sam Stoller.

East Tech High and Ohio State University Alumni Show & Share! Wednesday, November 17...5:30 - 6:30pm Free with admission to the 7pm lecture

Have your East Tech yearbook? Ohio State freshman beanie? Mementos from Olympics gone by? Share your East Tech, Ohio State and Olympic memorabilia and favorite stories with Olympic historian **Rusty Wilson** and **Sean Martin**, Associate Curator for Jewish History at Western Reserve Historical Society.

Panel Discussion: Memories of Olympic Heroes Wednesday, December 8...7pm \$10/\$8 members

What's it like to represent your county and win an Olympic medal? Hear the stories of exceptional Northeast Ohio Olympians—Harrison Dillard (Gold, 1948, hurdles), Carol Heiss Jenkins (Gold, 1960, figure skating) and Diana Munz DePetro (Gold, 2000, swimming) Moderated by David Gilbert, President and CEO, Greater Cleveland Sports Commission.

Other Programs This Fall at the Maltz Museum...

Welcoming Cleveland's New Immigrants Wednesday, October 13...7pm \$10/\$8 members

How can Cleveland embrace the fresh ideas and entrepreneurial zeal of today's immigrants and provide necessary resources to insure a bright and creative future for our city? Join a timely discussion with community leaders **Richard T. Herman**, attorney and author of *Immigrant Inc:* Why Immigrant Entrepreneurs Are Driving the New Economy, **Shilpa Kedar**, Program Director for Economic Development at The Cleveland Foundation, **Reverend Max Rodas**, Executive Director Nueva Luz Urban Resource Center, and University Circle Inc. President **Chris Ronayne**. Moderated by **Baiju Shah**, President and CEO, BioEnterprise.

A Maltz Museum 5th Anniversary Retrospective Tuesday, November 2...2pm Free with Museum Admission

Enjoy this insider look at the Museum's 5-year impact on our community led by **Executive Director, Judi Feniger.** Revisit unique exhibitions like *Cradle of Christianity: Treasures from the Holy Land* and *Zap! Pow! Bam! The Superhero and the Golden Age of Comic Books.* Learn more about the 100+ community volunteers that make the Museum run, the thousands of adults and school children who have visited and the *Stop the Hate! Youth Speak Out* essay and schoolarship contest.

Guest Lecture - Ted Gup Special Night: Thursday, November 4...7pm \$15/\$12 members

Ted Gup, award-winning journalist, former staff writer for the *Washington Post* and *Time* magazine, shares a behind-the-scenes look at his new book *A Secret Gift—How One Man's Kindness—and a Trove of Letters—Revealed the Hidden History of the Great Depression*, a fascinating, true-life mystery and compelling story of charity in the midst of hard times set in Gup's hometown of Canton, Ohio.

Honoring Holocaust Survivors and Liberators Wednesday, November 10...7pm \$10/\$8 members

In commemoration of Kristallnacht (November 9) and Veteran's Day (November 11), be part of this moving discussion with survivors **Betty Gold** and **Zev Harel** and liberators **Jack Kleinman** and **Arthur Mayers**. Hear their stories and examine the importance of keeping their memories alive for future generations. Moderated by *Cleveland Plain Dealer* features reporter, **John Campanelli.**

1st Night of Hanukkah Candle Lighting and Concert Wednesday, December 1...6:30pm candle lighting/7pm concert \$15/\$12 members

Enjoy an exhilarating musical experience with **Rabbi Shawn Zevit** celebrating the Festival of Light and Freedom. Sing and learn about the evolution of Hanukkah tradition through ritual, folk and contemporary music representing Jewish culture around the world and throughout the generations. Rabbi Zevit is a singer, songwriter, performer and liturgist with more than 25 years experience in spiritual leadership. An uplifting start to the holiday for young and old alike.

Shabbat Spectacular Saturday, December 25...1—5pm FREE with Museum Admission

The kids are home and everything is closed today. . . EXCEPT THE MALTZ MUSEUM! Take an afternoon off to explore our galleries with scavenger hunts and kid-friendly tours, play games that will challenge your physical and mental powers, hear stories in Hebrew and English, explore the Bible through theater improvisation techniques, and enjoy delicious snacks. A special way for your family to have fun on Shabbat.

And coming in January 2011...

Martin Luther King Jr. Day Monday, January 17...11am - 5pm Free admission

Honor the spirit of Dr. King, Jr. at our annual free admission day. Visit the American Story and Temple-Tifereth Israel galleries where stories of those who have overcome prejudice and discrimination come alive, and celebrate the Museum's fifth anniversary of building bridges of understanding between people of all religions, races, cultures and ethnic backgrounds.









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Olympia A film by Leni Riefenstahl

Groundbreaking. Controversial. Masterpiece. These are the words used to describe Leni Riefenstahl's documentary about the 1936 Olympics, *Olympia*. Playing on a constant loop while the exhibition is on display, visitors will see Jesse Owen's feats of athleticism, along with other exciting events.

What makes the film important is not only it being the first cinematic record of the Olympic Games but in its cinematic technique as well. Unusual camera angles, persuasive editing, re-staging of events – these elements were new to the world of documentary film. For these same reasons Olympia is often labeled as a Nazi propaganda film. Many of her shots seem to glorify many of the Nazi ideals, namely the Athletic Human Body.

The Museum will be showing Part One of the two-part documentary, "Festival of the Nations", the more historical record of the games. Viewers can judge the film's legacy and importance and decide themselves – propaganda or cinematic achievement? Or both?



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About the Exhibition

Stories featured in the exhibition include:

- The Nazification of German sport, the exclusion of Jews from all sporting clubs and the use of athletics to regiment and "militarize" German youth.
- The U.S. boycott debate between Avery Brundage and Jeremiah Mahoney, among others, and the only dismissal of an International Olympic Committee member in the history of the Games, Ernst Lee Jahnke, a former assistant Secretary of the Navy, because of his strong opposition to the Berlin venue.
- The Nazi banning of Gretel Bergmann (now Margaret Lambert), a star German-Jewish track athlete prevented from competing only after the U.S. team boarded its boat and set sail for Europe.
- The stunning success of many of the 18 African-American athletes (three times the number that competed in 1932 in Los Angeles) including Jesse Owens, Ralph Metcalfe, Mack Robinson, John Woodruff, Archie Williams, Jackie Wilson and others. \
- The controversy surrounding American Jewish athletes Marty Glickman and Sam Stoller, two of America's fastest sprinters, who were removed from the 4x100-meter relay team just hours prior to the race.
- Hitler's plan that after the Tokyo Games in 1940, all future Olympics would be held at Nuremberg in a stadium his architect Albert Speer designed to seat 400,000 people.
- The exhibition concludes by examining the fates of Olympic athletes from the 1936 and previous Games who were caught up in the events of World War II and the Holocaust.

The Nazi Olympics: Berlin 1936 Advisory Committee

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COMING SOON TO THE MALTZ MUSEUM OF JEWISH HERITAGE



From the Progressive Insurance Art Collection
SPRING 2011