

Matter of Fact Media Presents

THE MYSTERY OF SAN NICANDRO

A Feature Documentary in HD in association with CBC's

documentary

Premiering Sunday, November 18 at 8:00 p.m. ET/10:00

p.m. PT



The Mystery of San Nicandro, premiering **Sunday, November 18, 2012, at 8:00 p.m. ET/10:00 p.m. PT** on CBC's **documentary**, is a powerful film that strikes at the core of human identity. At first glance, it is a compelling story that unfolded in Fascist Italy, of a simple Italian man, Donato Manduzio, who had a mystical vision that resulted in the only mass conversion to Judaism in modern history.

But it is much more: today, there is an extraordinary revival of Judaism in southern Italy – synagogues have opened in Calabria and Sicily for the first time in 500 years - centuries after the Spanish Inquisition forced Jewish communities to convert to Catholicism or flee. North Americans are fuelling this revival as they travel to the most Catholic country to explore their Jewish roots. As the great popularity of ancestry sites on the web confirm, this film will speak to our collective human desire to discover our origins.

“In my mind the film is ultimately a testament to the inexorable force of the past, how it shapes our identity and sense of belonging,” says Producer Vanessa Dilyn. “That force is universal — no matter what our differences, we all have an ancestral journey and a past.”

“While researching the Manduzio story we discovered that today Jewish communities are emerging throughout Sicily, Calabria and Puglia, all made up of long-time Catholics who have discovered — often at a relative's deathbed — that their family roots are Jewish!” says Director/Writer Roger Pyke.

Visit our rich media website to learn more about the film and to share your story:

www.themysteryofsannicandro.com

THE MYSTERY OF SAN NICANDRO was created by producer Vanessa Dilyn and writer/director Roger Pyke for Matter of Fact Media in association with CBC's *documentary* channel, with the financial participation of The Bell Broadcast & New Media Fund, The Rogers Cable Network Fund, Canada Media Fund, and Canadian tax credit programs. For *documentary*, Bruce Cowley is the Executive Producer and Creative Head, Digital Channels. Production Executive is Jordana Ross.

About Matter of Fact Media: Matter of Fact Media Inc. is a Toronto-based production company specializing in HD documentary and factual programming. Launched in 2006, the company has developed a reputation for projects that are intelligent, well-researched, with high production values and very popular with viewers. Fixing My Brain was the highest-rated documentary on CBC Newsworld's The Lens for 2008; and the Gemini award-winning documentary The Musical Brain featured international music artists Sting, Wyclef Jean, Michael Bubl , and Feist as well as best-selling author Dr. Daniel Levitin.

[For images from The Mystery of San Nicandro please click here](#)

For further information, interviews and screeners, please contact:

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