

# \*Media Alert\*

# NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC REVEALS THE FIRST LOOK OF THE UPCOMING LIMITED SERIES A SMALL LIGHT

To Celebrate Hanukkah, the Photo Shares a Scene with the Frank, van Pels and Gies Families Observing the Holiday While in Hiding During World War II

Starring Bel Powley, Joe Cole and Liev Schreiber, the Eight-Part Series Will Premiere This Spring on National Geographic and Disney+



Caption: The Frank, van Pels and Gies families celebrate Hanukkah in the upcoming limited series A SMALL LIGHT, from National Geographic and ABC Signature in partnership with Keshet Studios. From left: Liev Schreiber as Otto Frank, Ashley Brooke as Margot Frank, Rudi Goodman as Peter van Pels, Billie Boullet as Anne Frank, Amira Casar as Edith Frank, Caroline Catz as Mrs. van Pels, Noah Taylor as Dr. Pfeffer, Joe Cole as Jan Gies, Bel Powley as Miep Gies, and Andy Nyman as Mr. van Pels. (Photo credit: National Geographic for Disney/Dusan Martincek)

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**(WASHINGTON, D.C. – Dec. 20, 2022)** – To commemorate Hanukkah, National Geographic released a first-look photo from the upcoming limited series **A SMALL LIGHT**, premiering this spring on National Geographic and Disney+. Reflecting on the holiday's themes of resistance, resilience and courage, this first look shows Miep and Jan Gies, the Frank family, the van Pels family, and Fritz Pfeffer in a scene from the show in

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which they gather to celebrate the Jewish Festival of Lights while hidden in the secret annex.

The powerful, eight-episode limited series tells the remarkable story of secretary Miep Gies (**Bel Powley**), who didn't hesitate when her boss Otto Frank (**Liev Schreiber**) asked her to hide him and his family from the Nazis during World War II. For the next two years, Miep, her husband Jan (**Joe Cole**) and several other everyday heroes watched over the eight souls hiding in the secret annex. It was Miep who found Anne's diary and preserved it so that she and Otto could later share it with the world. The series title comes from something Gies said late in her life: "I don't like being called a hero because no one should ever think you have to be special to help others. Even an ordinary secretary or a housewife or a teenager can turn on a small light in a dark room."

Also in the photo is **Amira Casar**, who plays Edith Frank, mother to Margot and Anne; **Billie Boullet**, who portrays Anne Frank; and **Ashley Brooke**, who plays Anne's older sister Margot Frank. The remaining cast includes **Eleanor Tomlinson** as Tess (Miep's best friend), **Andy Nyman** as Hermann van Pels, **Caroline Catz** as Auguste van Pels, and **Noah Taylor** as Dr. Fritz Pfeffer, who all hid in the annex with the Frank family; Sally Messham as Bep Voskuijl, **Ian McElhinney** as Johannes Kleiman, and **Nicholas Burns** as Victor Kugler, Miep's coworkers; and **Liza Sadovy** as Mrs. Stoppelman, **Laurie Kynaston** as Casmir, and **Sebastian Armesto** as Max Stoppelman.

A SMALL LIGHT is produced by ABC Signature in partnership with Keshet Studios for National Geographic. Executive producers and writers Joan Rater and Tony Phelan (ABC's "Grey's Anatomy," "Council of Dads") serve as showrunners, and DGA awardwinner and Emmy®-nominated executive producer Susanna Fogel ("The Flight Attendant," "Cat Person") directs multiple episodes, including the pilot. Executive producers are Peter Traugott and Lisa Roos for Keshet Studios, Alon Shtruzman for Keshet International, and Avi Nir for Keshet Media Group.

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#### **About National Geographic Content**

Award-winning and critically acclaimed National Geographic Content, part of a joint venture between The Walt Disney Company and the National Geographic Society, creates and delivers riveting stories and experiences in natural history, science, adventure and exploration. Inspiring a deeper connection to the world, the content studio reaches 300 million people worldwide in 180 countries and 33 languages across the global National Geographic channels (National Geographic Channel, Nat Geo WILD, Nat Geo MUNDO), National Geographic Documentary Films, and direct-to-consumer platforms Disney+ and Hulu. Its diverse content includes Emmy® Award-winning franchise *Genius*, series *Life Below Zero* and *Secrets of the Whales*, and Oscar®- and BAFTA award-winning film *Free Solo*. In 2022, National Geographic Content was awarded eight News and Documentary Emmys, in addition to *Life Below Zero*'s Emmy win for Outstanding Cinematography for a Reality Program, it's sixth Emmy overall. For more information, visit natgeotv.com or nationalgeographic.com, or follow Nat Geo on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube and LinkedIn.

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One of the Disney Television Studios, ABC Signature produces many of ABC Entertainment's most significant hits, including "Grey's Anatomy," "black-ish," and "Station 19"; co-productions "The Good Doctor," "A Million Little Things," "The Rookie," and "Home Economics," and late-night talk show "Jimmy Kimmel Live!" ABC Signature's returning and upcoming series include Hulu's co-production "Woke; "grownish" for Freeform; "The Wilds" for Amazon and "Godfather of Harlem" for EPIX. For streaming service Disney +, series include "The Mighty Ducks: Game Changers," "Big Shot" and the upcoming "National Treasure" and "Muppets Mayhem."

#### **About Keshet Studios**

With offices in Los Angeles and New York, Keshet Studios is Keshet International's (KI) US-based production arm, providing an international platform for distinct US voices, stories and talent. The studio draws on KI's extensive catalogue, as well as its wide network of connections, to develop, produce and package content for the US and international marketplaces. As part of its ongoing production pact and first-look deal with Universal Television (UTV), Keshet Studios is co-producing the Fall hit *La Brea* (NBC) and David E Kelley's *The Missing* (Peacock), while also co-developing several projects for various buyers, including *After School Special*, *Ties That Bind*, and *The Stuntwoman* with UTV. It is also shooting *Echo 3*, the US adaptation of Keshet's *When Heroes Fly*, for Apple TV+.

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