

Draft News Release/Revised
Agora Productions
April 2009

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**AGORA PRODUCTIONS TO PREMIERE
“THE POWER OF THE POWERLESS” AT BOSTON
INT’L FILM FESTIVAL APRIL 19**

*Documentary details dissent and “Velvet Revolution”
in Czechoslovakia twenty years after Communist collapse*

LOS ANGELES, April 6, 2009 - Agora Productions, a nonprofit film company based in Los Angeles announced today the premiere of its compelling documentary “The Power of the Powerless,” which details the dramatic events of 1989’s Czechoslovak “Velvet Revolution” at the Boston International Film Festival on April 19.

The premiere is particularly timely as U.S. President Barack Obama recently took time out of his busy schedule to meet with former Czech President Vaclav Havel in Prague. Havel, who led the bloodless transfer of power in Czechoslovakia during the Velvet Revolution, and who has been lauded as one of the most important philosopher-statesmen alive today, relates his personal struggles in “The Power of the Powerless” as the film documents what it was like to live under totalitarianism and relates the episodes that shaped Havel’s human-rights philosophy.

The film was presented by the Czech Ambassador to President Obama’s staff as part of his diplomatic briefing just prior to his April 5th EU-US Summit in Prague.

Acclaimed actor Jeremy Irons, who narrates the film, praised “The Power of the Powerless,” by saying, “So much of history has been airbrushed. It is an exhilarating experience

to watch the brutal honesty of ‘The Power of the Powerless.’ To witness fallible human beings make their way through this period of turmoil, in all their hopelessness, fear and bravery, is a truly uplifting experience. I was proud to be, in a small way, involved.”

“No one can duplicate the experience of persecution,” said Emmy-Award winning director, Cory Taylor; “but to the best of our abilities we have attempted to illustrate what took place in Czechoslovakia – and what tragically continues to go on today in many parts of the world.”

Agora Productions Executive Director, Darin Nellis, said, “Our objective is to increase awareness among viewers of what people are all capable of, as well as to provoke a dialogue – especially among young people – about the importance of safeguarding democracy and human rights.”

Alexandra Ryan acted as consultant to Agora Productions in developing and producing “The Power of the Powerless” (Alexandra Ryan recently produced the Emmy-nominated documentary “Alive Day Memories: Home from Iraq” with James Gandolfini through Attaboy Films).

Agora Productions (www.agoraproductions.org) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit whose mission is to to promote the values of global citizenship, friendship and open dialogue through film and television.

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