

Draft News Release/Revised
Agora Productions
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Joann Killeen
Killeen Furtney Group
(310) 476-6941 Office
(310) 625-8998 Cell
Email:joannk@mindspring.com
www.kfgpr.com

**“POWER OF THE POWERLESS” TO BE SHOWN IN NEW YORK AS PART
OF UNITED NATIONS PROGRAM JUNE 15, 7pm**

*“Days of the Czech EU Presidency at the United Nations“
To Feature Agora Productions Documentary Film*

LOS ANGELES, Calif., June 10, 2009 - Agora Productions' acclaimed documentary film, "**The Power of the Powerless**," which dramatically portrays the 1989 Czech "**Velvet Revolution**," will be screened June 15 at 7pm at the Bohemian National Hall in a New York (321 E. 73rd St.), sponsored by the Czech Permanent Mission to the United Nations, said Agora's executive producer, Darin Nellis.

Agora's film will be shown as part of a two-week series of events, "Days of the Czech European Union Presidency at the United Nations," according to an announcement by the Czech Republic's Permanent Mission. The announcement noted "Power of the Powerless" as it examines "the difficult moral choices people were forced to make under communism and the role of civil society and human rights defenders in the fall of the totalitarian regime."

"The Power of the Powerless" is particularly relevant today as many people in non-democratic countries around the world, such as Burma, continue to struggle for freedom. One of the largest human rights organizations in Europe, *People In Need (PIN)*, recently licensed the rights to translate and distribute "The Power of the Powerless" to dissidents struggling for freedom in various non-democratic countries such as Burma, Cuba, Belarus, and others. *PIN's* Executive Director Simon Pánek has said, "PIN believes that Agora Productions' high-quality filmmaking and vital messages conveyed in 'The Power of the Powerless' will inspire many who seek nonviolent methods to secure

freedom, especially youth.”

The screening will host Simon Panek, who is also a former student leader of the Velvet Revolution and Czech Ambassador to the UN, Martin Palous, former Spokesman of Charter 77 as well as Director, Cory Taylor, and Executive Producer, Darin Nellis, as part of a panel discussion taking place after the screening.

Academy Award[®] winner **Jeremy Irons**, who narrates “The Power of the Powerless,” recently offered these words of praise for the film: “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.”

Director Cory Taylor, an Emmy-winning filmmaker, expressed his appreciation for the UN program's use of his documentary and its dramatic depiction of the "Velvet Revolution" of 1989. "Unlike so many similar episodes in history, in Czechoslovakia, the truth won out in the end when, in 1989, Vaclav Havel and his fellow dissidents were swept into power after achieving a bloodless revolution," Taylor noted.

Earlier this year, the film was shown at film festivals in Boston and Warsaw, Poland and is scheduled for additional festival screenings in Slovakia and Croatia. The film also won the Golden Palm Award at Mexico's International Film Festival.

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

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