

## **DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT – DANIEL RAIM**

My documentaries preserve film history and depict the art, craft, and soul of the movies through intimate portraits of cinema artists.

In 1999, during my final year as a student at the American Film Institute, I met director Norman Jewison when I started making a documentary about my professor, production designer Robert F. Boyle, who collaborated with Alfred Hitchcock on several classics, including "North by Northwest" and with Jewison on major movies like "The Thomas Crown Affair" and "Fiddler on the Roof." I interviewed Boyle and Jewison about their epic collaboration on "Fiddler" for my Oscar-nominated documentary on Boyle, "The Man on Lincoln's Nose" (2000).

The film version of "Fiddler on the Roof" was introduced to me when I was a child, by my grandparents who survived the Holocaust. Jewison's film, including Robert Boyle's visually stunning and scrupulously researched production design, was a window into the world my grandparents came from, which no longer exists.

I continued exploring "Fiddler" by shooting in-depth interviews with the movie's cast and crew, including the film's star, Topol (shot in 2009), director Norman Jewison (shot in 2016), lyricist Sheldon Harnick (shot in 2017), composer John Williams, film critic Kenneth Turan, and the three actresses who play Tevye's eldest daughters (all shot in 2021).

Making FIDDLER'S JOURNEY TO THE BIG SCREEN has been a true labor of love, years in the making. I wanted to make a documentary that explores Jewison's artistry, compassion, and humanity as well as his spiritual and creative quest directing "Fiddler on the Roof."

—**Daniel Raim**