

R EISENBERG PRESENTS, INC.

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"Science is the foundation of all progress that improves human life and diminishes suffering." (Irène Curie)



**Out from the Shadows:
The Story of Irene and Frédéric Joliot Curie**

Premieres June 11, 2009, 10 pm on 

Producer: Rosemarie Reed

Narrator: Julianne Moore

HD NOLA Code: OSJC000

Broadcast Rights: 6 Releases/4 Years

A Screening DVD Is Available Upon Request

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Dear Colleague:

KQED is proud to present **Out from the Shadows: The Story of Irène and Frédéric Joliot Curie**, featuring the life and times of Irène Joliot-Curie, the eldest daughter of Marie and Pierre Curie. Although less well known than her legendary parents, Irène and her husband, Frédéric, were extraordinary scientists in their own right, having made a contribution of equally ground-breaking significance to nuclear physics. Like her parents, they, too, were awarded a Nobel Prize. And since Rosemarie Reed—who always finds the intriguing stories of remarkable women scientists—is the producer, we know there is much more to the documentary than the clear and excellent science it contains. Coming of age in the early 20th Century, Irène's life is filled with wartime incidents, absent parents, emotional and political turmoil and her brilliance—all of which must be told.

Making use of Curie family photos and home movies, as well as interviews, letters, stock footage, and dramatizations, **Out from the Shadows** reveals Irène's genius as a scientist and mathematician. It shows, for example, the Joliot-Curies creation of the first radioactive atom that did not exist in nature, marking the beginning of a new era in our relationship to matter. Artificial radioactivity, we all know, has

enabled crucial beneficent advances. such as in cancer therapy. But, we also know all-too-well about the threats to our existence from the weapons it has produced.

Out from the Shadows captures Irène's pluckiness and fortitude. Viewers see an 18-year-old Irène telling a surgeon on the battlefield how to position the X-ray in order to locate shrapnel in an injured soldier's leg. When Irène travels to Amiens to install another X-ray unit, military authorities announce that her equipment can not be unpacked for at least fifteen days. Coolly requisitioning a sergeant and a medical student, she unpacks the railroad car and, in less than an hour, installs the units. Irène would say later, "I surmounted the little difficulties of the moment."

Irène's childhood and youth are marked by extremes at opposite ends. She has access to opportunities which other children, even talented ones, could only dream of. But she and her younger sister grow up deprived of their parents' presence. Sometimes the two girls do not see their parents for weeks, even months. Her father dies in an accident when Irène is nine. Irène manages a complicated and intense scientific and personal relationship with her mother, Marie Curie, over the years, while her sister Ève, who was always less diplomatic and discreet, speaks openly of an unhappy childhood as an adult.

After the war, viewers of **Out from the Shadows** learn about Irène's and Fredrick's efforts at peace and Irène's health issues. They attend many conferences for peace, atomic weapons bans, and women's rights that result in political repercussions. Like her mother, Irène has health problems. She paid a high price for ignoring the dangers of radiation because when she was a young researcher on the road to sensational discoveries, there was an obsessiveness in her that overruled all self-protective impulses.

I urge you to take a look at this excellent documentary, to see the events I've omitted from this description and all the intriguing ins and outs of the film.

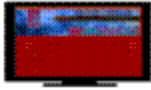
Out from the Shadows is produced Rosemarie Reed. It is presented by KQED and distributed by PBS. The underwriter is The Alfred P. Sloan Foundation. Local underwriting is permitted.

Please contact me if you have questions. A fact sheet follows.

Very truly yours,
Regina
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fact sheet

**Out from the Shadows:
The Story of Irène and Frédéric Joliot Curie**

Summary:

Featuring the life and times of Irène Joliot-Curie, the eldest daughter of Marie and Pierre Curie, and her husband, Frédéric. Less well known than her legendary parents, the Joliot-Curies were also extraordinary scientists and Nobel Prize recipients. Coming of age in the early 20th Century, Irène's life is filled with wartime incidents, absent parents, emotional and political turmoil and her brilliance—all of which are revealed in **Out from the Shadows**.

Narrator:

Julianne Moore

Episodes/Length:

1/60

Rights:

Broadcast: 6 Releases/4 yrs

Non-Commercial Cable: Yes

Video:

HD

NOLA Code:

OSJC000

Thursday, June 11, 2009, 10 pm ET -  /NPS

Audio/Visual:

CC/DVI

Producer:

Rosemarie Reed

Presenter:

KQED

Underwriter:

The Alfred P. Sloan Foundation

Local Underwriting:

Local underwriting is permitted.

Companion Product:

DVD: www.filmsforthought.com

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