

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

Lance Toland Entertainment launches the historical drama ***Flames of Freedom*** and bonus content on September 17, 2024. The podcast details the untold history of the Jewish escape from European oppression to Georgia in 1733. It has two components: Season One's 12-episode dramatic series with bonus interviews dispersed between dramatic episodes. The podcast will be available on all major podcasting platforms and YouTube.

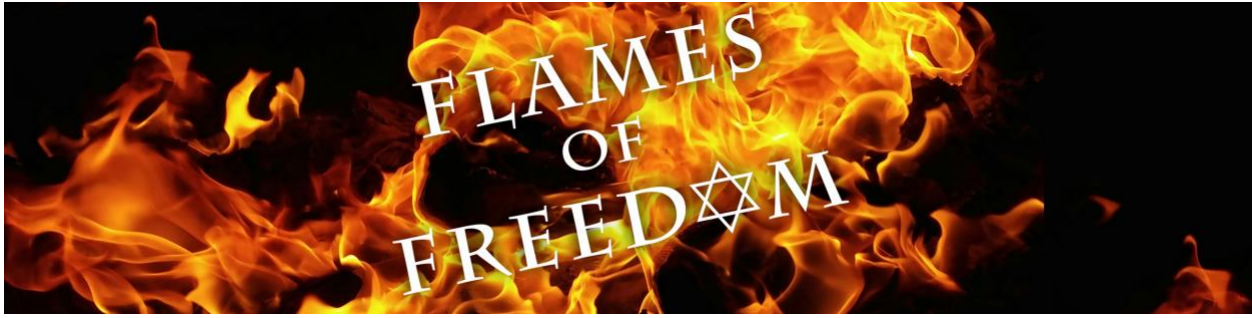
***Flames of Freedom*** sets a new standard for historical podcast production values with its ensemble cast of professional actors from around the world, robust sound design, and original music, creating an unparalleled immersive experience for listeners.

***The Dramatic Show***

***Flames of Freedom*** is a docudrama chronicling how forty-two courageous Jews risked their lives in 1733 to cross the Atlantic Ocean, hoping to settle in the American colony of Georgia. They were fleeing the Portuguese Inquisition, murderous pogroms of Eastern Europe, and antisemitism in England to build a future with religious freedom and economic opportunity. They gambled with their lives and sailed across the Atlantic Ocean on the slim chance they would be allowed to settle in the new American colony of Georgia to be founded by James Oglethorpe. Nothing about this journey from oppression to liberty was easy, nor was the desired outcome certain. Given the Georgia Trustees' blatant objections to Jews settling in the new colony, the possibility that Oglethorpe would reverse course and accept them seemed nearly impossible. But an unforeseen epidemic threatening to wipe out the budding colony would completely change that calculus.

***Flames of Freedom Revealed – Bonus Content***

In the ***Flames of Freedom REVEALED*** bonus content, the creators behind the *Flames of Freedom* dramatic series are joined by world-renowned scholars, authors, and historians for a fireside discussion about the Jewish quest for survival and religious freedom in the centuries leading up to the early 18<sup>th</sup> Century when our story begins. They delve into the backstories of the Inquisition, the world of Conversos who were forced to abandon Judaism and adopt Catholicism, Jew-hatred prevalent in England, where part of our story unfolds, and the unique and revolutionary leadership of James Oglethorpe who founded the Georgia Colony in 1733 and was one of the first in English society to take a stand openly against human slavery. In the first episodes, we speak with world-renowned experts on Sephardic Jewry,



Lance Toland, Executive Producer of the podcast, happened upon the seeds of this story when walking the streets of Savannah, GA. “Nearly ten years ago, I was walking the streets of Savannah, Georgia, and came across a small monument in plain view at the corner of Oglethorpe and Bull Avenues. Most people crossing that intersection rarely pay any attention to it, much less walk around it to see what is revealed on its backside. There, etched in granite, facing traffic busily navigating through this Savannah intersection, is the name of the founder of the City of Savannah and the Colony of Georgia—James Oglethorpe. Strangely, above his name is a Jewish menorah—a candelabra—etched for all to see. Few would recognize its Jewish association and probably conclude that this is a small monument to honor the city’s father and nothing more. But if you were to circumnavigate this granite stone, you’d find a puzzling list of names on bronze plaques attached to the other side—hidden from view. The names of a few dozen Jews who are buried right under this intersection—a burial ground dating back to 1733. Standing there, I had the eerie feeling that the spirits of these people, and their stories, were beckoning to me. This monument was a mystery to me, weaving together the fate of the first Jewish settlers with that of a man revered as the founder of the Georgia colony. Perplexed, I had to know more. Every turn of research revealed something further, both interesting and confounding. That was the beginning of a nearly ten-year quest to understand this story of the Jews fleeing from oppression and persecution who came here seeking a better life. ***Flames of Freedom*** is their story. And it is part of our collective story as Americans.”

The first episodes are set to debut on September 17, 2024, on all podcast platforms.

For more information and updates, visit [flamesoffreedom.net](http://flamesoffreedom.net) or follow ***Flames of Freedom*** on Instagram @flamesoffreedom.

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