

"Sophie Scholl" writer, producer to speak at the U

The fourth annual Anne and Sandy Dolowitz Lecture on Human Rights will take place Monday and Tuesday of next week. This year's Lecture will focus on human rights and resistance in Nazi Germany.

The Lecture, originally created by the Dolowitz' and sponsored by the International Studies program, was created to help educate students about human rights.

Monday, Feb. 1, a free screening of the 2006 Academy Award nominated film *Sophie Scholl: The Final Days* will be presented at 7pm in The City Library Auditorium (210 East 400 South).

On Tuesday, Feb. 2, German writer, director, and producer Fred Breinersdorfer, who wrote and co-produced the film, will speak at 5:30pm in the Eccles Auditorium of the Carolyn Tanner Irish Humanities Building at the University of Utah.

Breinersdorfer, who has extensively studied Nazi resistance, will speak about resistance in Nazi Germany, both passive and aggressive, and connect the anti-Nazi activity to activity in dictatorships in general.

Sophie Scholl: The Final Days follows the arrest, interrogation, and trial of famous anti-Nazi heroine Sophie Scholl. Scholl was an active member of the White Rose, a non-violent resistance group in Nazi Germany who wrote and distributed a series of leaflets protesting the Nazi regime and encouraging resistance.

The film begins with Scholl and other members of the group, including her brother Hans, writing and printing the sixth and what would become final leaflet to be distributed the next day at Munich University. The Scholl siblings are caught and arrested.

The bulk of the film depicts the interrogation of Scholl by Gestapo investigators, accurately depicted using transcripts from the actual interrogation and court proceedings. Some documents used by Breinersdorfer to create the screenplay had not been used before, creating a unique and new perspective on the well-known Scholl story.

The strength and will of Scholl is intriguing and moving as she is tried and convicted of High Treason, the punishment for which is death.



Johanna Watzinger-Tharp, Director of the International Studies Program, selected the film because of its relevance to students.

"Sophie Scholl and her brother Hans were both college students at the University of Munich. We hope that through the lecture, students will be able to connect the different kinds of resistance during the Nazi regime to human rights issues," she said.

The film was nominated for numerous awards in both Europe and the US, including the Academy Award category for Best Foreign Film.

For more information, visit http://hum.utah.edu/intl_studies/.