

**PRINCIPAL SHOOTING CONTINUES
IN WASHINGTON, D.C. FOR
MOE BERG,
A DOCUMENTARY FILM
BY AVIVA KEMPNER**

**Award-Winning Documentarian Aviva Kempner
Hard at Work on the Non-Fiction Story
of Major League Baseball Catcher Turned OSS Spy**

Scheduled to be Released for 2019 Festival Season

WASHINGTON, D.C. June 29, 2018 – As the countdown begins for the 89th All-Star game in Washington, D.C., Aviva Kempner's latest film, ***Moe Berg***, the first feature-length documentary about the enigmatic and brilliant baseball player who turned spy for the U.S. Office of Strategic Services (OSS) during World War II, is being finished in the nation's capital. Berg not only played for the last Washington Senators team to play in a World Series (1933), but he also trained with the OSS not far from the team's home -- Griffith Stadium. Kempner is on schedule for entering the major film festivals before *Moe Berg* hits theaters nationwide by Opening Day of the 2019 MLB season. The film will feature rare historical footage as well as revealing interviews with an All-Star roster of celebrities and other individuals from the worlds of sports, spy craft, and history.

Berg, the erudite Major League catcher who played on five different baseball teams in the '20s and '30s, spoke a multitude of languages, earned degrees from Princeton University and Columbia University Law School, and attended the Sorbonne. Earlier this year, Berg and the 13,000 heroic men and women of the OSS finally received a well-deserved Congressional Gold Medal during a moving ceremony where Berg's heroism was cited.

Kempner observed, "With the recent release of *The Catcher was a Spy*, Moe Berg is finally achieving the recognition he so deserves as a World War II hero. I am delighted we have been working on this full-length feature documentary that explores the broader landscape of his immigrant Jewish upbringing, why he was called the *brainiest* man in baseball, and his many courageous OSS missions geared towards preventing the Nazis from developing the atomic bomb. Berg is the American hero we all need to know more about!"

Berg may have only had a .243 batting average during his 13-year Major League player career, but it was the stats he collected for the OSS that made him a most valuable player to his country during World War II. Berg grew up in Newark, New Jersey. He played for the Brooklyn Robins (which became the Dodgers), the Chicago White Sox, the Cleveland Indians, the Washington Senators and the Boston Red Sox during baseball's Golden Age. Berg also had a secret life spying on the Japanese during an All-Star players trip to Tokyo, and

later worked for the OSS playing a prominent role in U.S. efforts to undermine the German atomic bomb program. After WWII, Berg remained elusive and later reclusive.

Based in Washington, D.C., Kempner, a director-writer-producer dynamo, boasts a resume of critically acclaimed and award-winning documentaries, including: *Rosenwald*, *Yoo-Hoo*, *Mrs. Goldberg*, and Peabody winner *The Life and Times of Hank Greenberg*. She also produced *Partisans of Vilna*. Child of a U.S. Army officer Harold Kempner and Polish Holocaust survivor Helen Ciesla, Kempner was born in post-World War II Berlin, Germany. Her family history inspired her to make films about under-known Jewish heroes. She has created films on television pioneer Gertrude Berg, Hall of Fame baseball superstar Hank Greenberg, philanthropist Julius Rosenwald, and the Jewish resistance to the Nazis. Her films have received top honors from The National Society of Film Critics, the New York Film Critics Circle, the Broadcast Film Critics Association and CINE Golden Eagle and Peabody Awards.

Kempner is a member of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences and is an avid voting rights advocate for the District of Columbia.

For more information on "*Moe Berg*," please visit www.moebergfilm.org.