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**WEST WING ACTOR AND JEWISH PHILANTHROPIST TO SPEAK
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA**

Gainesville, Fla.— Joshua Malina, an acclaimed actor and Jewish activist, will speak on Wednesday, March 23 at 7:30 p.m. in the J. Wayne Reitz Union's Grand Ballroom at the University of Florida. His visit is free and open to the public and Malina's appearance is co-sponsored by ACCENT Speaker's Bureau and Jewish Awareness Month. Doors open at 7 p.m. A brief press conference will take place promptly at 6:45 p.m. in the back hallway of the Grand Ballroom of the Reitz Union, and proper credentials are required.

Malina plays speechwriter Will Bailey on NBC's drama *The West Wing*. Malina has worked with the shows creator, famed playwright Aaron Sorkin, appearing in all of his projects, and many other television shows and films. Malina was also the executive producer of Bravo's *Celebrity Poker Showdown*, a six-part reality series in which Ben Affleck, Martin Sheen and 23 others face off in a charity tournament.

Malina believes in instilling Jewish values in the next generation and is a devoted supporter of Israel. An avid supporter of philanthropic events, he is involved with Bet Tzedek, a legal organization that provides free legal council to poor and elderly citizens of the Los Angeles area on a non-sectarian bias. He recently raised \$50,000 for the charity on *Celebrity Jeopardy!* Born and raised in New York, Malina grew up in a traditional home and attended Yeshiva. He graduated from Yale University in 1988 with a degree in theatre. His speech will address Jewish issues and how Judaism plays a major part in his own life.

Jewish Awareness Month is an annual program taking place every March designed to enrich the lives of UF's Jewish students by providing them with fun, interesting, and hopefully enlightening programs about Judaism both as a culture and as a religion. JAM is also important to the non-Jewish students of Gainesville because it provides them with insight into a sometimes very different culture in a way that is exciting, enjoyable and non-intimidating. Through fascinating speakers, moving presentations and a lot of laughter, Jewish Awareness Month educates and engages both Jews and non-Jews about a very complex and beautiful religion and people.

For persons with disabilities requiring special accommodations, please contact (352) 392- 1665 x 302 or 392- 2567 (TDD). E-mail accommodate@sg.ufl.edu or contact the Florida Relay System at 1-800-955-8771 at least 72 hours prior to the event. Real Time Transcription will be provided. For more information, please contact ACCENT at (352) 392-1665 ext. 306.

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