

## OVERVIEWS OF THE HOLOCAUST

**Genocide, 1941-1945 - The World at War Series** (50 minutes) - Produced and directed by Michael Darlow, 1982. Recommended for Middle School, High School, and Adult.

The story of the destruction of European Jewry is told using archival footage and testimonies of victims, perpetrators, and bystanders.

**The Holocaust: In Memory of Millions** (90 minutes) - Hosted by Walter Cronkite for the Discovery Channel, 1993. Recommended for High School and Adult

This film serves as an introduction to the Holocaust and traces the gradual escalation of the persecution of Jews under the Nazis. It includes interviews with survivors and soldiers who liberated concentration camps as well as archival film and personal photographs.

## LIFE BEFORE THE HOLOCAUST

**Image Before My Eyes** (90 minutes) YIVO Institute for Jewish Research. Produced by Josh Waletzky, Susan Lazarus, 1980. Recommended for Middle School, High School, and Adult. This documentary uses photographs, drawings, home movies, music and survivor interviews to recreate Jewish life in Poland from the late 19th century up to the time of the Holocaust.

## PERPETRATORS

**Heil Hitler: Confessions of a Hitler Youth** (30 minutes) HBO. 1991. Recommended for Middle School, High School, and Adult.

Alfons Heck, a former member of the Hitler Youth and now a U.S. Citizen dedicated to Holocaust education, recounts the compelling story of how he became a fanatic supporter of Nazism. Documentary footage demonstrates how songs, youth camps, speeches, and propaganda turned millions of young Germans like Heck into a fervent and loyal proponent of Nazi racism and militarism.

## RACISM AND ANTI-SEMITISM

**Faces of the Enemy** (57 minutes) 1987. California Newsreel. Recommended for upper grades of High School and Adult.

This video examines how humans perceive, define, and make enemies. It looks at the use of loaded words, slanted news, twisted images, and propaganda and proposes methods of escape from such behaviors. It examines the sociological, psychological, and political aspects of war to discover what drives nations—and individuals—to kill." Note: Graphic images of racism, war and atrocities.

**The Wave** (55 minutes) Zenger Media. 1981. Recommended for Middle School and High School. This video is a thought provoking dramatization of an actual classroom experiment on individualism vs. conformity in which a high school teacher formed his own "Reich", called "The Wave" to show why the German people could so willingly embrace Nazism.

## ABOUT THE VICTIMS AND SURVIVORS

**Anne Frank Remembered** (117 minutes) Narrated by Kenneth Branagh and Glenn Close, 1995 Recommended for Middle School, High School, and Adult.

This film uses archival film and photos, interviews with Anne's family and friends, as well as documents to present the life of Anne Frank and her family from her years in Frankfurt, Germany, through her final years in Amsterdam, the Netherlands.

**I'm Still Here: Real Diaries of Young People Who Lived During the Holocaust.** (48 minutes) Directed by Laura Lazen. 2008. Grades 6 and up.

While Anne Frank's diary is widely recognized as a central document of the Holocaust, less well known are 60 other surviving accounts which bear witness to that dark moment in world history. This

powerful documentary is based on the book *Salvaged Pages* by the film's writer Alexandra Zapruder. The film includes archival and location footage, plus photos, text and drawings from the diaries.

**Into the Arms of Strangers: Stories of the Kindertransport.** (117 minutes) 2000 Recommended for Middle School, High School, and Adult.

This Academy Award winning documentary, produced by Deborah Oppenheimer, includes testimony by many Kindertransport survivors. It is one of the great Holocaust documentaries and provides an unforgettable experience with these children-survivors.

**My Knees Were Jumping: Remembering the Kindertransports.** (76 minutes)

2003. Recommended for Middle School, High School, and Adult

Docudrama interweaves remembrances with archival footage to present accounts of children rescued and parents left behind to their inevitable fate. Sundance Grand Jury Prize nominee.

**Survivors of the Holocaust** (70 minutes). Produced by June Beallor and James Molls for Stephen Spielberg and the Survivors of the Shoah Visual History Foundation and Turner Home Entertainment. 1996 Recommended for Middle School, High School, and Adult.

This documentary examines the work of director Stephen Spielberg in compiling and documenting the testimony of Holocaust survivors. It includes survivor testimony on their life before, during and after World War II.

**One Survivor Remembers** (36 minutes) HBO in association with the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum and Wentworth Films, 1995. Recommended for High School and Adult

Survivor Gerda Weissmann Klein eloquently recounts the personal story of her life before the war in Poland, her Holocaust experiences, including the painful loss of most of her family, and the suffering she endured on a final "death march" near the end of the war.

## GHETTOS

**The Warsaw Ghetto** (51 minutes) BBC Production, 1969. Recommended for Middle School, High School, and Adult.

Narrated by a ghetto survivor, this documentary uses historic film footage made by the Nazis and shows the creation of the ghetto, early Nazi propaganda, scenes from everyday life, and the final weeks of resistance before the ghetto was liquidated.

**Lodz Ghetto.** Produced by Alan Adelson and Directed by Alan Adelson and Kathryn Taverna, 1989. Recommended for Middle School, High School, and Adult.

This documentary recounts the history of one of the last ghettos to be liquidated using written accounts by Jews, photographs, slides and rare film footage. Good companion to Adelson's book.

## CAMPS

**Auschwitz: If You Cried, You Died** (28 minutes) Impact America Foundation, 1991, 1993.

Recommended for Middle School, High School, and Adult

Two survivors recount their experiences in Auschwitz after returning there with family members. Combined with historic footage, this is a moving commentary on prejudice. It also discusses Holocaust deniers.

## RESISTANCE

**Escape from Sobibor** (149 minutes) Directed by Jack Gold and starring Alan Arkin and Rutger Hauer, 1987. Recommended for Middle School, High School, and Adult.

This film is a recreation of the prisoner uprising at the Sobibor extermination camp in occupied Poland. In mid-October 1943, more than 300 Jewish prisoners escaped from the camp in the face of

German machine-gun fire by running across a minefield. More than 100 were recaptured and later shot.

**Daring to Resist: Three Women Face the Holocaust** (57 minutes) Produced and directed by Barbara Attie and Martha Goell Lubell and narrated by Janeane Garofalo, 1999. Recommended for Middle School, High School, and Adult.

This film tells the story of three Jewish young women: Faye Schulman, a photographer and partisan fighter in the forests of eastern Poland; Barbara Rodbell, a ballerina in Amsterdam who delivered underground newspapers as well as secured food and other aid for Jews in hiding, and Schulamit Lack, who acquired false papers and a safe house for Jews attempting to flee Hungary.

## RESCUE

**The Courage to Care** (28 minutes) Produced and directed by Robert Gardner with Executive Producers Sister Carol Rittner, R.S.M. and Sondra Meyers, 1986. Recommended for Middle School, High School, and Adult

Elie Wiesel narrates this documentary film which deals with rescuers. It asks why some individuals under physical, emotional, and ethical duress “do the right thing,” and it stresses the principle that each individual does make a difference. Odette Meyers (a French Jew), Irene Opdyke (a Polish Catholic), Marion P. Van Binsbergen Pritchard (a Dutch rescuer), Emanuel Tanay (a Polish Jew), and Magda Trocmé (wife of Protestant Pastor Andre Trocmé at Le Chambon-sur-Lignon) present their moving testimonies.

**Schindler’s List** (3 hours, 17 minutes) Directed by Steven Spielberg, adapted from Thomas Keneally’s fictionalized account of a true story, 1993. Recommended for upper grades in High School and Adult.

Shot on location in Poland in stark black-and-white, this compelling Oscar-winning film tells the story of German businessman Oskar Schindler who saved more than 1,000 Jews from deportation and death. Contains graphic violence, strong language, and nudity.

**The Other Side of Faith** (27 minutes) Produced by Sy Rotter, 1990. Recommended for Middle School, High School, and Adult.

Filmed on location in Przemysl, Poland, this first-person narrative tells of a courageous sixteen-year-old Catholic girl who, for two and a half years, hid thirteen Jewish men, women and children in the attic of her home.

**Assignment Rescue: The Story of Varian Fry and the Emergency Rescue Committee** (26 minutes) Narrated by Meryl Streep; directed by Richard Kaplan, produced by Richard Kaplan and Christina Lazard; written by Christina Lazard, 1997. Recommended for Middle School, High School, and Adult.

This film tells the story of Varian Fry, an American who was able to enter Vichy France and help hundreds of people, including prominent artists such as Marc Chagall, to escape the Nazis to safety in the U.S. in 1940.

**Weapons of the Spirit** (38 minutes) Written, produced, and directed by Pierre Sauvage, 1988. Recommended for Middle School, High School, and Adult.

This is the story of Le Chambon-sur-Lignon, a small Protestant village in south-central France, and how its predominantly Protestant citizens responded to the Nazi threat against the Jews. Residents of the area hid and cared for 5,000 Jews, many of them children.

## THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY'S RESPONSE TO THE HOLOCAUST

**America and the Holocaust-- Deceit and Indifference: The American Experience** (90 minutes) Produced and directed by Martin Ostrow, WGBH Boston Video, 1994, 2005. Recommended for High School and Adult.

This video shows how WWII American immigration policies prevented hundreds of thousands of

Jews from finding refuge in the U.S. using newsreel footage, interviews with authorities, official documents, statistics, and the personal story of Kurt Klein, a German national who liberated Nazi prisoners.

**The Double Crossing: The Voyage of the St. Louis** (29 minutes) A production of the Holocaust Memorial Foundation of Illinois and Loyola University of Chicago. Produced by Elliot Letkovitz and Nancy Partos, 1992. Recommended for High School and Adult.

More than 900 Jewish refugees fleeing Nazi Germany in 1939 on the luxury cruise ship the St. Louis were denied entry to Cuba and the United States and forced to return to Europe. The film includes survivor interviews, archival footage and photos. The general issues this film addresses---racism, quota systems for refugees, and immigration policies---remain urgent ones today.

**The Boat is Full** (104 minutes) Produced by George Reinhart, Limbo Films, Inc., in coproduction with SRG, ZDF, ORF and directed by Markus Imhoo, 1980. Recommended for High School and Adult.

In 1942, the Swiss government, alarmed at the vast numbers of people fleeing Nazi Germany, established stringent immigration policies as they declared the country's "lifeboat" full. This suspenseful drama tells the story of a group of refugees forced back to the border by ordinary citizens too frightened or indifferent to take them in. In German, with English subtitles.

## LIBERATION

**Liberation 1945: Testimony** (76 minutes) Produced by Sandy Bradley, Wentworth Films, in association with the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, 1995. Recommended for High School and Adult.

This film includes expanded eyewitness testimony produced for the Museum's special exhibit, Liberation 1945. Jewish survivors and Allied liberators recall liberation and describe conditions inside the camps, including difficulties faced by medical relief teams working in the liberated camps. Survivors interned in displaced persons (D.P.) camps describe the organization of those camps and their efforts both to find surviving family members, and, by marrying, to establish new families.

**You Are Free (Ihr Zunt Frei)** (20 minutes) Direct Cinema Education. 1983. Recommended for Middle School and Up.

Focusing on the remembrances of four American soldiers who participated in the liberation, and a woman who survived several years of internment, this film combines their stories with archival footage of Holocaust events to record the horror and human compassion of the time.

## WAR CRIME TRIALS

**Murderers Among Us: The Simon Wiesenthal Story** (188 minutes) HBO Pictures, Robert Cooper Production. Produced by John Kemeny and Robert Cooper, 1988. Recommended for High School and Adult.

The true story of a Holocaust survivor who committed himself in the years after liberation to the task of hunting Nazis and bringing them to justice. Useful for examining the response to the Holocaust in the postwar period.