

MADE IN AUSCHWITZ

THE UNTOLD STORY OF BLOCK 10

Cinephil

SAXONIA ENTERTAINMENT

Medienkontor Winterberg
& Nagel





SYNOPSIS

Almost eighty years ago, gynecologist Carl Clauberg conducted medical experiments on Jewish women in Auschwitz. His "research" on birth control and infertility is part of the medical canon to this day. Of the small number of women who survived, most became sterile while others were lucky. For the first time they tell their story to the world.

THE WOMEN

- Leny Adelaar
- Renée Duering
- Eva Golgevit
- Génia Oboeuf
- Garmaine Pitchon
- Lynn Wallis

CREDITS & INFORMATION

Written & Directed by: Sylvia Nagel & Sonya Winterberg

Producers: Sylvia Nagel, Sonya Winterberg
Simone Baumann, Sascha Beier, Philippa Kowarsky, Olivier Tournaud

Editors: Shaked Goren and Clemens Hübner

Music: Peter Andreas

Production: Medienkontor Winterberg & Nagel

Co-Produced by: Cinephil, Saxonia
Entertainment

In Association with: ZDF/Arte, Hot 8

With the Support of: MDM

Running Time: 72'

Languages: German, French, English, Hebrew

Production Countries: Germany, Israel

Production Year: 2019

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

SYLVIA NAGEL AND SONYA WINTERBERG

Our documentary of the untold story of Auschwitz' Block 10 centers on six women who were subjected to sterilization experiments by German gynecologist Carl Clauberg, who initially looked to further his career in endocrinology, a fairly new branch of medicine in the 1930's, and in particular in fertility research. However, Clauberg's ambitions took a U-turn and instead of helping women become pregnant, he helped the Nazis to make them infertile by the cruelest of means. Clauberg sacrificed the women in his personal quest for recognition and his indispensable will to produce scientific results that would have made a second genocide in the East possible once the war was won.

The film is based on the life and memories of the survivors of Block 10, strong women who for the first time tell their stories in front of a camera. Historic court documents are the basis for a treasure trove of insights that our experts explain and comment on both with regard to Clauberg's narcissistic personality as well as the results of his questionable work that are the basis of scientific fertility research to this day.

The findings from the "Clauberg Files" and the memories of our protagonists result in a visual dialogue on several levels, that combine its focal points in pictorial language and tone of voice, structure and sequence of the scenes like a mosaic. Hardly noticeably animated documents, which lend the stories plasticity, and music composed especially for this film offer the viewer an insight into a time gone by and preserved by the memories of our protagonists while being directly linked to today.

The aim of our film was to give a voice and face to the last women survivors of these horrors. How did they survive? How were they able to carry on and start families (or not) after all? And why do we know so little about how Auschwitz was used in the development of contraceptives when Clauberg is actually considered the "real father of the birth control pill". While it is indeed difficult to hear these accounts, we believe it is important to see the worst and the best in people in order to better understand history.

It is our hope that this film will find its way into the heart and minds of viewers as the women of Block 10 tell their stories with graceful charm and unrivaled wit as we pay tribute. It is a testament to future generations and, especially in the way our German-Israeli team collaborated, leading the way for times to come.

Sylvia Nagel and Sonya Winterberg



SONYA WINTERBERG

For the past twenty years, Finnish-Swedish writer and journalist SONYA WINTERBERG has been working for media in Germany, the US and Northern Europe. Her work focuses on women and children in war and its aftermath. Sonya reported on major news events such as the aftermath of the war in Bosnia, the 2005 Kashmir earthquake, Hurricane Katrina and the resettlement of refugees and IDPs to villages across Afghanistan. Sonya has been involved in a number of German television events such as the acclaimed ARD television documentary series "Kriegskinder" (Children of War, 2009) for which she co-authored the companion book. She was also on the team that conceptualized and wrote the online special for the award-winning series "14 - Diaries of the Great War". Currently she is working on a bio pic of the late Anja Niedringhaus for ZIEGLER Film (to be released in 2020).

Dr. SYLVIA NAGEL is a director, author and producer of documentary films with more than 25 years of professional experience. She has worked for a variety of public broadcasters such as NDR, WDR, SWR, MDR, ZDF and Arte. As deputy editor in chief for NDR/Arte she commissioned many documentaries, several of which were award-winning such as: 2008 Adolf-Grimme-Award for "Luise - A German Muslim" and 2006 German Television Award nomination for "I am Al Qaeda - The Life of Zacarias Moussaoui". As an author and director, Sylvia has been involved in the production of films both in Germany and abroad. Her work has a strong focus on socio-political issues. Her documentary film "China's Public Enemy No. 1 - Rebiya Kadeer's Battle for the Uyghurs" has been shown at festivals worldwide. Sylvia has also been a lecturer at the Berlin University of the Arts (UdK).



Dr. SYLVIA NAGEL



WORLD SALES

Cinephil - Philippa Kowarsky
Tel: +972 356 64129
Email: info@cinephil.com
Website: www.cinephil.com
Social Media: @CinephilDoc
Mailing Address: 18 Levontin St. Tel Aviv, Israel

CONTACT

Medienkontor Winterberg & Nagel
Tel: +49 171 170 9904
Email: s.nagele@gmx.net
Address: Marienburger Str. 27,
10405 Berlin
Germany