

SURVIVORS OF THE  
S H O A H  
VISUAL HISTORY FOUNDATION®

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**FIVE-PART "CINEMAX REEL LIFE" HOLOCAUST DOCUMENTARY SERIES**  
***BROKEN SILENCE***  
**PRESENTED BY STEVEN SPIELBERG AND THE SHOAH FOUNDATION,**  
**TO DEBUT EXCLUSIVELY ON CINEMAX APRIL 15-19**

**BROKEN SILENCE**, a "CINEMAX Reel Life" series of five documentary films by distinguished international directors, will debut on CINEMAX on five consecutive nights next April 15-19. This unique event is presented by Steven Spielberg and Survivors of the Shoah Visual History Foundation and produced by Academy Award Winning documentary filmmaker James Moll (the Oscar-winning HBO documentary "The Last Days"), and will debut in conjunction with Holocaust Remembrance Day, Yom Hashoah.

"The **BROKEN SILENCE** series of five foreign-language documentaries is an extremely important step in the Shoah Foundation's mission of worldwide tolerance education," notes Spielberg. "We are grateful that CINEMAX shares our commitment to creating a more tolerant world through the public distribution of this significant series of documentaries."

Each director worked with Shoah Foundation researchers and historians to create a documentary about the Holocaust that would resonate most effectively in his own country, language and culture. Poland's Andrzej Wajda (recipient of a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences) directed **I REMEMBER**. Luis Puenzo (the Academy Award-winning "The Official Story") directed **SOME WHO LIVED**. The Czech Republic's Vojtech Jasny, who fought as a partisan after the Nazis deported his father to Auschwitz, directed **HELL ON EARTH**. Russia's Pavel Chukhraj (the Academy Award-nominated "The Thief") directed **CHILDREN FROM THE ABYSS**. Up-and-coming Hungarian filmmaker Janos Szasz, son of two Holocaust survivors, directed **EYES OF THE HOLOCAUST**.

**BROKEN SILENCE** is a key part a global effort to increase awareness of the Holocaust as a means of countering the devastating impact of intolerance on our world. Initiated by Shoah Foundation founder and chairman Steven Spielberg, the project represents an unprecedented response to the many demands of educators and community leaders around the world who are struggling to confront Holocaust denial, racial hatred, and wars of "ethnic cleansing."

Profoundly moved by the many survivors he encountered while filming "Schindler's List," Spielberg established the non-profit Shoah Foundation in 1994 to videotape and preserve eyewitness testimonies of Holocaust survivors and other witnesses. To date, the Foundation has videotaped testimonies from more than 50,000 survivors in a total of 57 countries and 32 languages.

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The mission of the Foundation is to overcome prejudice, intolerance and bigotry -- and the suffering they cause -- through the educational use of its visual history testimonies. For more information, visit the Shoah Foundation's website at [www.vhf.org](http://www.vhf.org).

For "CINEMAX Reel Life": supervising producer, Julie Anderson; executive producer, Sheila Nevins.

**I REMEMBER**  
**A Film by Andrzej Wajda**  
**Poland**

I REMEMBER, by Academy Award® honoree Andrzej Wajda, is comprised largely of Holocaust survivor testimonies given to the Shoah Foundation in Polish (sub-titled in English). I REMEMBER was crafted by weaving together the personal recollections of four Polish survivors with original footage. The documentary appears in black and white without narration. Wajda avoided using any historic archival images of the Second World War or the Holocaust. He cut original footage of the famous "March of the Living" throughout the film as a symbol of hope and improved dialogue between young Jews, Poles, and Germans. Also included are clips of Pope John Paul II praying at the Western Wall in Jerusalem to underscore the director's statement that "The film focuses on the dramatic and specific relations between Jews and Poles in Nazi-occupied Poland. An emotional story of a few people, whose experiences describe the facts, as well as the atmosphere and spirit of what happened."

Andrzej Wajda is one of the most prolific and significant directors in post-war Europe. The son of a Polish cavalry officer killed early in World War II, Wajda directed several films that dealt with World War II and the Holocaust and challenged the communist regime during the Cold War. His devotion to Poland's burgeoning Solidarity movement was manifest in his critically acclaimed pair of films, "Man of Marble" (1976), and "Man of Iron" (1981). His outspoken political beliefs prompted the Polish government to force his production company out of business. Wajda then went into exile in France, returning to his homeland only after the collapse of Communism in 1989. The 1990s witnessed the resurrection of both Polish cinema and Wajda's career as a director. In 1999, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences presented him with the Lifetime Achievement Award.

Professor Anthony Plonsky, a preeminent scholar of the Holocaust, served as the documentary's historian. Academy Award® winning documentary filmmaker James Moll ("The Last Days"), who worked with Spielberg to establish the Shoah Foundation, produced the film. Lew Rywin, best known for his work producing such films as Spielberg's "Schindler's List" and Andrzej Wajda's "Pan Tadeusz" served as executive producer. Production services were provided through Heritage Films, Rywin's Polish based film and television production company. For "CINEMAX Reel Life": supervising producer, Julie Anderson; executive producer, Sheila Nevins.

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**EYES OF THE HOLOCAUST**  
**A film by Janos Szasz**  
**Hungary**

EYES OF THE HOLOCAUST, by Janos Szasz, is comprised largely of Holocaust survivor testimonies given to the Shoah Foundation in Hungarian (sub-titled in English). Crafted by weaving the personal testimonies of survivors with archival images and original footage, the film focuses on the experiences of survivors who were children during the Holocaust. Szasz dedicates "Eyes" to the "one and half million children who perished, and for those who survived and had children of their own." As a way of dividing the documentary into thematic segments, a young girl reads from an encyclopedia entitled "Eyes of the Holocaust" defining terms such as "anti-Semitism," "Ghetto," "Deportation," and "Crematorium."

Szasz, the son of two Holocaust survivors, studied drama and staging at the Academy of Theater and Film Art in Budapest, receiving his Masters Degree in Film Directing in 1987. He directed highly praised stage productions of Ibsen's "Ghosts" and Tennessee Williams' "A Streetcar Named Desire." He has directed several documentaries, children's programs, and feature films for Hungarian State Television. He is best known for directing the 1994 feature film, "Woyzeck," which won Europe's prestigious FELIX prize for Best Young European Film. A member of the European Film Academy since 1999, Szasz continues to direct both feature films and theatrical productions.

Professor Randolph L. Braham, a preeminent scholar of the Holocaust as well as a Hungarian survivor, served as historian. Academy Award® winning documentary filmmaker James Moll ("The Last Days") produced the film. Andy Vajna, best known for his work producing such films as "Rambo" and "Total Recall," served as executive producer. Production services were provided through InterCom, Vajna's Hungarian based film and television production company. For "CINEMAX Reel Life": supervising producer, Julie Anderson; executive producer, Sheila Nevins.

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**SOME WHO LIVED**  
**A film by Luis Puenzo**  
**Argentina**

SOME WHO LIVED, by Luis Puenzo, who won an Academy Award® for "The Official Story", is comprised largely of Holocaust survivor testimonies given to the Shoah Foundation in Spanish (sub-titled in English). "Some Who Lived" weaves together the personal experiences of Holocaust survivors who now live in Argentina with extensive archival footage and an original music score.

The film follows the same chronology found in the testimonies of the survivors, whose recollections fill the film. The joys of pre-war Jewish family life are discussed against the backdrop of rising anti-Semitism and Nazism. The war and the Holocaust, including the many horrors of life under Nazi occupation, confinement in the ghettos, deportation, and survival in the concentration camps, are all recounted here in vivid detail by the survivors themselves. Puenzo explores the connection between Nazism and the darker chapters in Argentinean history—the deadly bombing attacks against the Israeli Embassy and the AMIA building are presented as examples of the devastating impact of Argentine President Juan Peron's Nazi-friendly fascism, of welcoming Nazi war criminals into the country, of the 1976 - 1983 military dictatorship, and of lingering domestic anti-Semitism. He says "We must realize that the Holocaust could happen again anywhere."

Luis Puenzo is an internationally acclaimed Argentinean filmmaker best known for his political drama, "The Official Story" (1985), which won the Academy Award® for Best Foreign Film. An historically accurate film, "The Official Story" is a provocative portrait of a couple torn apart by the infamous Argentine campaign of killings and torture that sent thousands of accused "terrorists" to unmarked graves in the mid to late 70s. Despite the political controversy it sparked, the film was a milestone for freedom of expression in Latin America. A dedicated social commentator, Puenzo often presents probing portraits of people confronted by socio-political issues around them. Since his directorial debut in 1973, Puenzo has directed a number of feature films of lasting value.

Professor Haim Avni, a preeminent scholar of the Holocaust served as the documentary's historian. Academy Award® winning documentary filmmaker James Moll ("The Last Days"), who worked with Spielberg to establish the Shoah Foundation, produced the film. For "CINEMAX Reel Life": supervising producer, Julie Anderson; executive producer, Sheila Nevins.

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**HELL ON EARTH**  
**A Film by Vojtech Jasny**  
**Czechoslovakia**

HELL ON EARTH, by Vojtech Jasny, who fought as a partisan after the Nazis deported his father to Auschwitz, is comprised largely of Holocaust survivor testimonies given to the Shoah Foundation in Czechoslovakian (sub-titled in English). "Hell on Earth" weaves together the personal recollections of Czech survivors with archival images and originally shot footage. Jasny's film focuses on life and death in Theresienstadt, the "model" concentration camp in Czechoslovakia where the Nazis deceived neutral diplomats with well-staged propaganda tours designed to show how well the Jews of Europe were really being treated. Interspersed throughout the film are drawings by children who lived in the camp and were later killed in Auschwitz. The film moves beyond Theresienstadt to detail the varied experiences of Czech Jews who survived the Holocaust, the many horrors of life under Nazi occupation, confinement in the ghettos, deportation, and survival. Jasny said "I chose the title "Hell on Earth" because it approximates what happened during the Holocaust. It was a time when the evils of mankind darkened the world. This is not just a documentary; it's a horror film. "

Vojtech Jasny is the son of a Czech patriot killed in Auschwitz and was an active member of the Czech Resistance and a spy for the Allies during World War II. After the war he went on to direct many feature films and documentaries, several of which dealt with the subjects of World War II and the Holocaust. He is widely regarded as one of the leading filmmakers of the Czech "New Wave" cinema movement of the late 1960s. He was named best director at the Cannes Film Festival for his 1968 anti-totalitarian drama, "To All My Good Countrymen," the classic film of the short-lived "Prague Spring" movement. His outspoken political beliefs prompted the authorities to ban his film immediately after the Soviet-led invasion of Czechoslovakia. Refusing to publicly recant the criticism of communism implicit in his film, Jasny fled into exile in 1970. After that he worked on a variety of film and television projects abroad, including several documentaries. He has taught film in the United States at Columbia University and other universities since 1984.

Professor Yehuda Bauer, a preeminent scholar of the Holocaust at Yad Vashem, served as the documentary's historian. Academy Award® winning documentary filmmaker James Moll (The Last Days), who worked with Spielberg to establish the Shoah Foundation, produced the film. For "CINEMAX Reel Life": supervising producer, Julie Anderson; executive producer, Sheila Nevins.

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**CHILDREN FROM THE ABYSS**

**A Film by Pavel Chukhraj**

**Russia**

CHILDREN FROM THE ABYSS, by Pavel Chukhraj, nominated for an Academy Award® for his critically acclaimed drama, "The Thief", is the story of children and teenagers who survived the Holocaust in the territories of the former Soviet Union. "Children from the Abyss" weaves together the experiences of Holocaust survivors, archival footage, and original music. The film depicts in graphic and dramatic detail children's experiences, including the execution of their families, the horror of being shot, climbing out from mass graves and surviving alone in the Nazi-occupied territories. Survivors do not hold back when they describe the vivid events of the massacres or when they share their desire for revenge during and after the war. The film probes the issues of resistance, collaboration and betrayal.

Pavel Chukraj was born in Moscow in 1946 to a prominent Soviet filmmaker and received two degrees from the prestigious All-Union State Institute of Cinematography (VGIK), one in cinematography and the other in directing. He directed his first film in 1975, and has since made eight feature films and several documentaries. He is best known for his award-winning drama, "The Thief," a probing portrayal of relationships torn apart by dishonesty and betrayal in Stalin's Russia. "The Thief" was honored with an Academy Award® nomination in 1997. In addition to directing, Chukhraj has written a number of scripts, including "Who Will Pay For the Fortune" directed by Konstantin Khudyakov.

Dr. Ilia Altman, a preeminent scholar of the Holocaust, served as the documentary's historian. Academy Award® winning documentary filmmaker James Moll ("The Last Days"), who worked with Spielberg to establish the Shoah Foundation, produced the film. For "CINEMAX Reel Life": supervising producer, Julie Anderson; executive producer, Sheila Nevins.