

Michael King Productions

THE RESCUERS

PRESS NOTES

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[Insert contact information for festival, sales
and press contacts when available.]

SHORT SYNOPSIS

The Rescuers is a documentary that brings to life the remarkable efforts of the heroic diplomats who saved tens of thousands of Jews before and during World War II. Often going against their own governments' policies, some of the diplomats sacrificed their careers and their livelihoods, working frantically to save people they did not know; in doing so they exemplified the "mystery of goodness". This film presents the personal stories of these heroes, as told by their children and grandchildren, and the Jews they saved, who recount their desperate attempts to escape war-torn Europe.

LONGER SYNOPSIS

Emmy Award-winning filmmaker Michael King and Executive Producer, Joyce D. Mandell take us on a journey in search of goodness in **The Rescuers**, a powerful and inspiring documentary that chronicles the astonishing efforts of heroic diplomats who displayed the "mystery of goodness".

Re-tracing the footsteps of the diplomats in the dangerous years leading up to and during World War II, the film weaves together both documentary style and dramatic reenactments. Based on the personal accounts of survivors and descendents of the diplomats and other rescuers – including His Royal Highness Prince Charles, The Prince of Wales, the film follows the thread of history in a journey across Europe and around the globe. Those who owe their lives to the diplomats travel back to Europe and describe their experiences in their hometowns and along their escape routes.

The Rescuers brings together the Twentieth Century and Holocaust historian Sir Martin Gilbert, and anti-genocide activist Stephanie Nyombayire, a Rwandan who lost one hundred members of her family in the Rwandan genocide. We join in their emotional journey as they track down the places in which the diplomats were able to carry out their heroic actions; we join them as they meet the people whose lives were saved during Europe's darkest hours.

From Sir Martin's personal library in London to the Righteous Diplomat Archives at Yad Vashem, Sir Martin and Stephanie traverse Europe by train, through Germany and Denmark, France and Italy, Poland and Lithuania, to Budapest and the scene of the largest diplomatic rescue effort in history.

Among the heroic diplomats featured in the film are the German diplomat George Duckwitz in Copenhagen, the Portuguese Consul Aristide de Souza Mendes in Bordeaux, Americans Varian Fry and Hiram Bingham in Marseilles, Japanese Consul Chiune Sugihara and the Dutch Jan Zwartendijk in Kaunas, the Turkish Consul Selahattin Ulkumen in Rhodes, the British Captain Frank Foley in Berlin, the Polish diplomat Henryk Slawik in Budapest, and the Swedish diplomat Raoul Wallenberg, who helped to coordinate the rescue efforts in Budapest in 1944 with the Italian Giorgio Perlasca who represented Spain, Archbishop Angelo Rotta who represented the Vatican, and the Consul Carl Lutz of Switzerland. The film also features special interviews with H.R.H. Prince Charles, Prince of Wales, and the Polish Ambassador Tomasz Kozlowski.

The survivors featured in the film are the brothers Bernard and Elliot Turiel, Michael Kaufman, Inge Sampson and her son Michael Sampson, the brothers Leo and Gustav Goldberger, Sylvia Smoller, Berl Schor and Peter Vagi.

Through the film, Sir Martin and Stephanie's relationship develops and inspires Stephanie to return home to Rwanda to interview Paul Kagame, President of the Republic of Rwanda, and Lieutenant General Romeo Dallaire, Force Commander of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Rwanda. In this way **The Rescuers** weaves the lessons of the Holocaust with the Rwandan Genocide in the 1990s and the ongoing genocide in the Darfur region of Sudan. The film identifies powerful questions that can be asked today of government leaders and their diplomatic representatives throughout the world. It challenges them – and all of us – to use their moral authority and power to save lives in danger today.

ABOUT THE PRODUCTION

Producer's Moving Experiences

Executive Producer Joyce D. Mandell, Connecticut businesswoman and philanthropist, has long been active in Jewish charitable work. In the 1990s, the local Jewish Federation created a society in honor of Swedish diplomat Raoul Wallenberg, who was responsible for saving thousands of Jews during the Holocaust. Joyce Mandell was instrumental in supporting the efforts to bring Eric Saul's "Visas for Life" exhibit of Righteous Diplomats to Hartford.

Mandell shared these moving experiences with her close friend, filmmaker Michael King. Mandell traveled along with the crew to many of the locations and shared her enthusiasm for the story and for the historical accuracy of the film.

Director's Story

King, the Emmy Award-winning filmmaker, drew on the background of his film projects that engage audiences with the African-American experience, as the MTV feature on the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr.

King recognized in Mandell's emotional experiences, the outlines of a documentary film. As he explored and learned about the diplomats, he realized that their experiences and those whom they saved before and during the Holocaust, could transform the way film audiences around the world think about the goodness of humanity and act upon what they have learned.

King's research led him to Sir Martin Gilbert, one of the world's preeminent historians of the Holocaust. King flew to London to meet him, discovering that Sir Martin was deep in work on the topic. Having completed his book *The Righteous: The Unsung Heroes of the Holocaust*, about ordinary people who saved Jews during the Holocaust, Sir Martin was ready to begin a book on the Righteous Diplomats who saved Jews. It is the research process for this book that Sir Martin and anti-genocide activist Stephanie Nyombayire embark on in the film.

Sir Martin agreed to participate in this historic documentary production and retrace the places where the diplomats were working. His connections helped open doors across Europe that would prove critical in building this powerful film.

King then flew to Israel, and began his extensive research at Yad Vashem in Jerusalem. There he had access to the files of the righteous diplomats, which contain testimonials of the people who were rescued and ultimately saved from the Nazis by them. With Yad Vashem's help, King was able to acquire the names of the diplomats' descendants, and Holocaust survivors whose lives were saved by the diplomats, and was subsequently able to interview and audio record their stories. With information from Yad Vashem and the interviews, Michael King was able to plot out a film treatment for the story, including an initial concept for who would be in the film and how the story would be told.

In order to ensure that the film could connect with a young audience in particular, Michael King located Nyombayire, the anti-genocide activist and co-founder of the Genocide Action Network who had lost family in the Rwandan Genocide.

With Sir Martin and Stephanie on board with the project, and having contacted children of the diplomats and survivors who were saved by them, King began making plans to take the team on a train journey across Europe to revisit the past and to pay tribute to the diplomats who saved them.

Throughout the process, both Mandell, the executive producer, and King, the director, have been aware that this film offers a unique perspective from which they hope diplomats from around the world will learn and apply these lessons to present-day and future challenges.

Travel

The traveling production, which included a crew of 20 people – much larger than most documentaries – and 30 boxes of film equipment, was a tremendous operation. The crew included the director, two co-producers, two camera operators, a cinematographer, gaffer, sound tech, three production assistants, a hair and makeup artist, and a digital technician. The 35-day European journey by train presented a logistical challenge but the crew met each challenge with fortitude and imagination.

Music/Original Scores

The film features original musical scores from Paul M. van Brugge – the award-winning musician who has scored more than 70 feature films – and is performed by the Sofia Soloists Orchestra of Bulgaria.

Equipment

The film was shot entirely in high definition using a range of top production equipment to capture the varying key elements of the project. Equipment included:

- REDone
- Panasonic AJ- HPX3000
- Panasonic 170 HD (AG-HPX170)
- Sony HDWF900R
- Canon EOS 5D Mark II

Educational Component

The film team is producing an educational guide to accompany the film that can be distributed to high schools in the United States and internationally.

ABOUT THE RESCUERS

The Rescuers are the diplomats from across the globe who, by virtue of being assigned to posts throughout Europe in the years around the Holocaust and World War II, were put in positions of great power to save the lives of Jews who sought to flee Nazi-controlled Europe.

Selahattin Ulkumen – Turkey

The Muslim diplomat, who was the official Turkish Consul on the Greek island of Rhodes, used his position to provide documents that saved Jews from the Nazis, and ultimately is responsible for their generations of children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. He lost his wife in an attack by a German Air Force plane.

Aristides de Sousa Mendes - Portugal

In June 1940, the diplomat who served as Portuguese Consul-General in Bordeaux, France, defied the orders of his government and issued many thousands of transit visas to allow Jews to escape France and travel through Spain to Portugal. After the war his government punished him for disobeying orders not to issue the visas. Mendes sacrificed his career and his family's livelihood and was forced into abject poverty.

Captain Frank Foley – England

The Englishman went to Berlin as a spy for the British Secret Intelligence Service in the 1920s and remained when Hitler came to power. His cover was to serve as the Passport Control Officer in Berlin, which became a primary focus as he sought to ensure that Jews could get out of Nazi Germany before they were killed. More than 10,000 peoples' lives were saved from his courage and very hard work.

Georg Ferdinand Duckwitz – Germany

A member of the Nazi Party, George Duckwitz was the German Attaché in Copenhagen, Denmark who was assigned the responsibility to shipping the country's Jews to Germany. Duckwitz arranged for the Swedish Prime Minister to agree to take in the Danish Jews. He organized the rescue of 7,200 people, an amazing feat of goodness from someone who was a member of an organization – the Nazi Party - trained in the art of evil.

Hiram Bingham IV – United States

The diplomat served as Vice-Consul at the American Consulate in Marseille, France was in charge of American interests in the French port city. Bingham provided Jewish refugees with visa documents allowing them to cross over into neutral Spain and ultimately to safety from the Nazis. It is estimated that he, along with Varian Fry, saved tens of thousands of people.

Varian Fry – United States

An American, Fry first witnessed Nazi atrocities as a journalist and later returned to Marseille on behalf of the Emergency Rescue Committee. With the help of Hiram Bingham and others, Fry enabled Jews and many others to flee German-controlled France. It is estimated that they saved tens of thousands of people.

Chiune Sugihara – Japan

The Japanese Imperial Consul in Kaunas, Lithuania issued transit visas allowing Jews to travel across European Russia and Siberia to Japan. He was responsible for saving several thousand Polish Jews who had fled to Lithuania. He acted against the specific instructions of his government and issued the visas. Ultimately as many as 3,000 people were saved. As a result of his work, rather than being honored by the Japanese government, he was dismissed from the foreign office and sacrificed his pension and future career.

Jan Zwartendijk - Holland

A Dutch businessman, Jan Zwartendijk served as the Director of Lithuanian Operations for the Phillips company and had consular powers in Kaunas, Lithuania from the Dutch government. He made transit visas to Dutch-controlled Curaçau possible for Polish Jews looking to emigrate and escape danger.

Henryk Slawik – Poland

The Polish diplomat in Hungary saved Polish Jews and issued Polish diplomatic documents, meant for Christians or Aryans, to Jews to allow them to flee to freedom. He saved more than 5,000 Jews. Slawik refused to testify against Jozsef Antall, a colleague from the Ministry of Internal Affairs who performed heroic rescue work for refugees. He was executed by the Germans for his refusal to betray Jozsef Antall.

Carl Lutz – Switzerland

The Swiss Vice Consul in Budapest, Hungary, joined with other diplomats to provide protective documents that helped save tens of thousands of Jews in Budapest.

Raoul Wallenberg – Sweden

The First Secretary for the Swedish government in Budapest, Hungary participated in a unique collective diplomatic effort that helped save 120,000 Jews in Budapest in a dramatic challenge to the Nazis and the Hungarian fascist Arrow Cross.

Angelo Rotta – Italy

The Catholic Bishop in Budapest, Hungary, helped save 25,000 Jews by bringing together diplomats representing numerous European countries to provide protective documents for an entire neighborhood set up specially by the diplomats to protect 25,000 of the Jews in Budapest.

Giorgio Perlasca – Italy

The Italian businessman who assumed the duties of the Spanish diplomat in Budapest, Hungary, joined with other diplomats to provide protective documents that helped save tens of thousands of Jews in Budapest.

Princess Alice – Greece

The great granddaughter of Queen Victoria of Britain, Empress of India, wife of Prince Andrew of Greece, and grandmother to His Royal Highness Charles, The Prince of Wales, Princess Alice provided refuge to the Cohen family from Athens hiding them in her palace in Athens from the Nazis.

PRODUCTION MAP

Also available as a separate higher-resolution PDF document.



QUOTES FROM THE FILM

“These courageous and heroic diplomats, who made astonishing efforts to save thousands of Jews, risked their careers and went against their government policies because they knew it takes good men and women to be silent for evil to triumph.”

-- Stephanie Nyombayire on The Rescuers

“The diplomats are a very small group in the group of righteous but they’re a special group. And they were the ones who disobeyed their superiors, who broke all of the rules, and who acted in contradiction to everything they were supposed to do. Which in normal times is something we would never recommend, but here this is what made them so special.”

-- Irena Steinfeldt, Director of the Righteous Department, Yad Vashem

“...how easily genocide could have been prevented if other countries had intervened.”

-- Stephanie Nyombayire

“My father said, ‘It is one man’s duty to help his brother. They were my brother so it was my duty to come to their assistance because I was in a position to do so’.”

-- Mehmet Ulkumen, the Turkish diplomat’s son

“It’s not known how many benefited from the efforts of Bingham and his staff, and Fry and his team, but it certainly numbered in the tens of thousands. These parties were able to reach the United States and make a contribution, which had it not been for Hitler, they would have made it to Germany and Austria, to benefit of those countries.”

-- Sir Martin Gilbert

“Every time I visit my grandmother’s grave I can’t help but ask myself, ‘Where was her rescuer?’”

-- Stephanie Nyombayire

“Eventually they ran out of visa forms and what they resorted to was rolls of wallpaper, newspaper, whatever paper they could get their hands on.”

-- Sebastian Mendes, the Portuguese diplomat’s son

“After the war, the government simply was not interested in what he had done. Indeed he was punished for disobeying the order not to give the visas.”

-- Sebastian Mendes, the Portuguese diplomat’s son

“My grandfather had come from an old noble family, but the consequences of what he had done ended up driving him into pretty much abject poverty so he couldn’t really support his children any longer and there were forced to leave the country. But they all know that what he did was something great and necessary.”

-- Sebastian Mendes, the Portuguese diplomat’s son

“The exact number of visas that de Sousa Mendes issued in those frantic two weeks is not known, but it was certainly in the many thousands and may have indeed exceeded ten thousand.”

-- Sir Martin Gilbert

“Foley realized that the official policy of restraint, holding back on visas, not giving too many, not hurrying them through too much. That this was going to lead to disaster for thousands and thousands of people.”

-- Sir Martin Gilbert

“More than ten thousand benefited from Foley’s courage and very hard work.”

-- Sir Martin Gilbert

“Frank Foley bent the laws of his own country by issuing visas for Jews to escape Germany. Why is it that these diplomats have to break and bend laws in order to save lives? Why can’t saving lives be policy?”

-- Stephanie Nyombayire

“Duckwitz, a member of the Nazi Party, had by his efforts organized the rescue of seven thousand two hundred people, an amazing feat of goodness from someone who had been trained in the art of evil.”

-- Sir Martin Gilbert

“Similar events happened in my own country, to my own family.”

-- Stephanie Nyombayire

“He was, of course, thrown out of the foreign office, his pension was cancelled. He worked for a living, if you can call that a living, by being a porter in one of the harbors of Japan carrying heaving loads from ship to shore, backwards and forwards. He really paid for it. He paid with his health.”

-- Berl Schor, Polish Refugee, discussing Japanese diplomat Chiune Sugihara

“The phrase ‘never again’ isn’t just a phrase, it has to mean something”

“And never again must diplomats NOT take collective action.”

-- Sir Martin Gilbert

“Raoul Wallenberg, for no other reason than just to save people sacrificed everything and gave us back our dignity...and gave us back the right to live.”

-- Peter Vagi, Hungarian Refugee

“One can only hope, that in this modern world, at the beginning of the twenty first century. When there is still so much persecution, that modern diplomats and individuals will be inspired by this to take the same risk, the same initiative. If necessary, to sacrifice their own careers, so that humanity will not be betrayed again by evil, so that good will prevail.”

-- Sir Martin Gilbert

BIOS

Michael King, Director

Michael King has produced, directed and written documentaries, music videos and a feature film. In 1991, his MTV music video on Dr. Martin Luther King's speech *I Have A Dream* received national recognition. In 1995 he produced, directed and wrote a PBS documentary titled *Making A Living, the African-American Experience*. In 1997, he directed and wrote his first feature film, *Vanity Kills*, in the Czech Republic.

In 1999, King's PBS documentary on youth violence in America, entitled *Bangin'*, won the Emmy and International Television and Video Association Award for Best Documentary and Best Editing. In 2007, he completed a feature documentary entitled *Rapping with Shakespeare* (2008), which examines how a popular English teacher used hip-hop and rap to help his students to better access Shakespeare's works. The film also explores the lives of five South Central Los Angeles teenagers attending Crenshaw High School and the parallels between their experiences and that of Shakespeare's characters. King was nominated for an A&E Indie Filmmaker Award in 2008 for *Rapping with Shakespeare*. He also was the executive producer for the American Film Institute film, *Crenshaw Nights* (2008) starring Vondie Curtis-Hall and Judd Nelson.

King graduated from Connecticut College with a BA in Government. He also holds an MA in Film Studies from the University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands; and a Degree in Feature Film Directing from the Amsterdam School of the Arts (Maurits Binger Film Institute), Postgraduate. He taught screenwriting and film for two years at Emerson College. Recently, he was the Filmmaker-in-Residence and Professor of Film at Lynn University in Boca Raton, Florida. He is a former board member of the International Documentary Association.

Mr. King lives in La Quinta, California with his wife, Bernadette and son Mathias. Details of Michael King Productions films can be found on his website www.MichaelKingProductions.com.

Sir Martin Gilbert, Author

Sir Martin Gilbert, the world-renowned historian and author of 82 books, was born in London in 1936, and was evacuated to Canada in 1940, returning to Britain in 1944. Educated at Oxford University, from which he was awarded a Doctorate of Literature for the totality of his published work in 1999, he has been the Official Biographer of Winston Churchill since 1968, publishing seven volumes of narrative, including *Churchill A Life*, and twelve volumes of documents.

In 1984 and 1985, Sir Martin was a Non-Governmental Organization representative and speaker at the United Nations Human Rights commission in Geneva. In 1995 he accompanied the British Prime Minister John Major to Jerusalem, Gaza, Amman and Washington. In 2008 he accompanied Prime Minister Gordon Brown to Jerusalem. His six -volume biography of Winston Churchill was Gordon Brown's gift to President Obama in March 2009. In 2009 he accompanied Gordon Brown to Auschwitz. He has lectured widely, including at the Soviet Ministry of Defense in Moscow, the Canadian Houses of Parliament in Ottawa, the Academy of Sciences in

Kiev, UNESCO in Paris (a Kristallnacht commemoration) and the White House, and at the British Foreign Office ceremony recognizing the British diplomats who helped save Jews.

Among his books are *First World War*, *Second World War* (in which the Holocaust is an integral part) and the three-volume *A History of the Twentieth Century*. His books on Holocaust themes include *The Holocaust*, *The Jewish Tragedy* (a comprehensive history), *Kristallnacht* (the story of the November Nazi pogrom and its aftermath), *Final Journey* (the documentary story of ten Holocaust-related journeys), *Auschwitz and the Allies* (which tells the story of how the news reached the West, and the debate about the bombing of the camp), *The Righteous* (the story of Christians who saved the lives of Jews during the Holocaust), *Holocaust Journey* (a diary of a journey with his university students to pre-war-Jewish communities and wartime camps), *Never Again* (an illustrated history of the Holocaust for students and young people), *The Boys* (the stories of 750 young survivors of the camps), and *Atlas of the Holocaust* (a pioneering 330-map history of the Holocaust in maps and text).

In 1995, Sir Martin was made a CBE (Commander of the British Empire) for “services to education”, and in 1995 was knighted (becoming “Sir Martin”) both for “services to British history” and services to “international affairs”.

Sir Martin lives in London with his wife Esther, who is the author of the three-volume *Holocaust Memoir Digest*. Details of Sir Martin’s 82 books can be found on his website: www.MartinGilbert.com.

Stephanie Nyombayire, Anti-genocide activist

During her freshman year at Swarthmore College, Stephanie co-founded the Genocide Intervention Network. As a representative, she traveled to over one hundred colleges and high schools to speak against the Darfur genocide and give citizens the tools to take action. Stephanie has reported on the Darfur crisis from the Chad-Sudan border with MTV and testified before the Texas Senate Commission, which unanimously passed Senate bill 247 on Divestment from Sudan. Today, the Genocide Intervention Network has raised over three million dollars and divestment bills have been passed in over twenty states.

In 2007, Stephanie was named one of Glamour magazine’s Top Ten College Women heroes for her work on Darfur. Stephanie was honored by Rwandan First Lady Jeannette Kagame for her role in founding the Genocide Intervention Network, and in 2008 was invited to speak on a Clinton Global Initiative panel on student activism.

Today Stephanie is working with Orphans of Rwanda, Inc., an organization dedicated to helping orphans and other socially vulnerable young people in Rwanda pursue a university education and ultimately become leaders in driving economic development and social reconciliation. After her studies, she hopes to return to Rwanda to continue empowering and serving the youth.

Currently, Stephanie is attending New York University, Master’s program on Public Policies.

Joyce D. Mandell, Executive Producer

Joyce D. Mandell is a successful businesswoman and philanthropist who is actively involved in civic, arts and cultural organizations. She and her son Bruce have a long-time relationship with Emmy-award winning director Michael King. Several years ago, they introduced him to the accounts of heroism by diplomats who saved Jews during World War II. Michael was so taken by these accounts that he developed a concept for a documentary focusing on these diplomats. Impressed by Michael's vision, Joyce and Bruce quickly committed to financially support the project. Joyce agreed to serve as Executive Producer.

Joyce's commitment to social causes and non-profit organizations runs deep. She is actively involved with the Boys and Girls Clubs of Hartford; The Greater Hartford Arts Council; and the Jewish Federation of Greater Hartford. She is past President and Chairman of the Board of the Greater Hartford Jewish Community Center, the first woman to service in those positions, and presently serves as a Trustee for the Jewish Community Foundation of Greater Hartford. She is also a member of the Board of Directors of St. Francis Medical Center where she and her husband, Andy, were involved in the creation of the Joyce D. and Andrew J. Mandell Center for Comprehensive Multiple Sclerosis Care and Neuroscience Research. Other organizations she supports are Boundless Playgrounds, which works with communities to design and develop accessible playgrounds for children and the Koby Mandell Foundation, whose goal is to help Israeli families who must find ways to cope with the uniquely emotionally and psychological trauma that affects victims of terrorists.

Professionally, Joyce is the Co-Founder and Executive Vice President of Data-Mail, Inc., a company operating in multiple facilities engaged in the volume direct mail production business since 1971.

Anka Malatynska, Director of Photography

Anka Malatynska continues to gain international attention and accolade for her keen eye and exquisite composition, and deft maneuvering of light and shadow, color and tone, figure and landscape, all in the interests of a gorgeous shot, a cohesive narrative and a superior completed project.

Anka began photographing her way around the world at the young age of fifteen. A distinction for student cinematography from the Academy of Television Arts and Science earned her an apprenticeship with noted cinematographer James Chressanthis, ASC, which has since blossomed into an on-going creative collaboration. She graduated in 2007 at the top of her cinematography class from AFI. After graduation, Chressanthis nabbed her to shoot his directorial debut, *No Subtitles Necessary: The Story of Laszlo Kovacs and Vilmos Zygmond* featuring Sharon Stone, Sandra Bullock and John Voigt. The film premiered at Cannes in 2008 and continues to garner acclaim and success at festivals the world over, including a Best Documentary win at the Santa Fe Film Festival.

Anka has shot commercials for Ogilvy & Mather, Foote Cone & Belding, and a slew of others. She has operated camera for esteemed directors Ellen Kuras and Michelle Ghondry. Her many documentary experiences have taken her to the shark-riddled waters of Fiji to shoot world-class surfers, as well as to the back alleys of East L.A. to

shoot for MTV disenfranchised teens living in poverty. On the feature front, her first full-length film, *Camjackers*, starring Olivia Wilde, was released in 2004. She filmed her second feature, *The Lazarus Papers*, starring Danny Trejo, Bai Ling and Tiny Lister, on location in Thailand in 2008.

For *The Rescuers*, Anka traveled to 12 countries spanning three continents.

Paul M. van Brugge, Composer

Paul M. van Brugge, born in Rotterdam, Holland, studied composing and arranging at the Rotterdam Conservatoire with (a.o) Klaas de Vries and Bob Brookmeyer. He graduated having composed and arranged concert music and music for theatre plays, modern dance and corporate advertising films. As a musician (piano) in his own right he toured with many jazz ensembles, composing and arranging the music accordingly.

In 1986, van Brugge met film director Alejandro Agresti who invited him to write the score to his second feature film *Love is a Fat Woman* (1987, Press-Award Dutch Film Festival). Since then they have been working together on the scores for most of Agresti's feature films including *Boda Secreta* (Secret Wedding, 1989 Best Film-Award Dutch Film Festival), *Buenos Aires Vice Versa* (1996, Best Film-Award San Sebastian) and *Valentin* (2002 Best Director Dutch Film Festival).

Van Brugge also composed filmscores for many other film directors, amongst them Otakar Votocek ; *Wings of Fame* (1991 Best Film-Award Karlyvo-Vary), Esmée Lammers; *Long live the Queen* (1995 Best Film-Award Dutch Film Festival), Danniël Danniël; *Winter '89* (1998); Van Brugge also produced film scores for Gabriël Axel; *Amler* (1994) and Peter Greenaway; *The Baby of Macon* (1995).

Since 1990, van Brugge's composing includes writing contemporary music, a.o. *Stroom* concert for 8 celli and bass clarinet (1993, selected as opening-concert at the International Gaudeamus Concours 1994); *Bacchanal for 16 musicians* (1996); *Distancias* for solo trumpet (2000); *Grafdans* for Holland Symfonia and the Amsterdam Klezmer Band (2003), and *Song of Cassandra*, his first chamber opera (2005). He composed for modern-jazz ensembles, a.o. *I Told You* for jazzquartet, (1995 in honour of the Berklee Music College 50th Anniversary Memorial Concert, Boston), *Espacios* (2001, commissioned by NPS radio for the Dutch Metropole Orchestra) and 'Minatures of Misdemeanour' (2006, commissioned by Fonds voor de Scheppende toonkunst and performed by the Doelen Ensemble). Most recently *Fractions of Phobiae* (2006 commissioned by the Sofia Music Festival) and *Double concerto for Piano and Trumpet* (2007, commissioned by Fonds voor de Scheppende Toonkunst and performed by the Rotterdam Philharmonic Orchestra) had successful performances. Presently van Brugge is finishing his new Double Concerto for Violin and Viola, to be performed by Igor and Vesna Gruppman and the Orchestra at Temple Church in Salt Lake City in October 2010.

Van Brugge was nominated "Best Composer" by the Dutch film music magazine *Score* in 2001. He was nominated for a Golden Calf in Best Music category for his *Go West* score in 2003 and won the Condor de Plata Best Music 2004 in Argentina for his *Valentin* score and the Golden Calf Best Music 2005 for his score of *Alias Kurban Said*. He has given several master classes in film music at the Dutch Film & Television Academy, DoxBarcelona, Documenta Madrid and the Danish

Filminstitute. He was artistic director of the Jazz International Rotterdam Festival 2008, and recently became member of the board of Buma/Stemra, the Dutch author rights organization. Since 1997 he has taught composing and arranging at the Codarts Rotterdam Conservatoire.

George Artope, Editor

George Artope, a Chicago native, was born into the creative field. With both parents working in television, he gained exposure to the production and post-production process early. Traveling frequently to Los Angeles and Europe as a youth provided him opportunities to learn and work on commercial sets. Inspired by these experiences, Artope created his first film, which was an edit, in 1996 (a documentary), which accepted him into New York University's Tisch School of the Arts. Instead, George decided to struggle his way into film school at the University of Southern California in 1997. Upon graduation, he began working in the industry in production, but realized his calling was in editorial while previously working at Cutters, Inc., Sky View Studios, and Cucoloris Films in Chicago and Los Angeles respectively. In 2004, George collaborated with William Artope's vision of fostering young talent to create Eye Edit, a creative offline editorial company located in downtown Los Angeles. George feels that editing is the backbone of film and his specialties lie in storytelling, emotion, and music sensibility.

Since 2004, George has built up an impressive reel of independent films, commercials, documentaries, and music videos. Many of the films he has worked on won festival awards and continue to inspire audiences at film festivals around the country.

Anthony Edward Valletta, Writer

Anthony Edward Valletta was born in the city of Orange, California and was raised in California, Utah, Oregon and Alberta, Canada. He has lived all across the United States, and traveled around the globe as a soldier, punk musician, and even a missionary. First published by as a nonfiction writer for the Long Beach Press Telegram circa 1983 when he was in his teens, his dark fantasy fiction and poetry has since been published in a few literary magazines, culminating in the publishing of a children's book in 2008. In 1995, he wrote and co-produced an off Broadway play in New York entitled "Wasted Tears", where he was introduced to screenwriting. He soon became involved with the independent film scene as a script doctor for features and a writer/producer of short films. He currently resides in Long Beach, California with his wife, Duangrat Valletta. The Rescuers marks his first venture into documentary screenwriting.

Yvonne Russo, Co-Producer

Yvonne Russo is an American Award winning producer, on-camera host and accomplished artist. Russo initially found success as a producer most notably for her work in the independent film world securing a national theatrical release with Landmark Theatres for the film, "Naturally Native" which was the first film in history to be financed entirely by a tribal nation. The film debuted at the Sundance Film Festival in 2000. Years later, she expanded her work from motion pictures to feature documentaries, Reality Television and Long form television.

Russo began her professional career as Vice President of Red-Horse Productions where she developed and produced *True Whispers: The Story of the Navajo Codetalkers* with Valhalla Motion Pictures. *Naturally Native*, *Pop Hunter's Dew Drop Inn* which was about the first Native American Jazz club owner produced for NAPT. After a six year term with Red Horse Productions Yvonne decided to produce independently to work on alternative forms of media. In 2005 Yvonne field directed over two-dozen episodes of, *Bringing Home Baby* TLC's Cable Strip Series where she conducted interviews with show participants and help develop storylines for Norseman Television Productions in Studio City. Her field directing led to running a multi-camera shoot for the Academy Awards Party Sponsor, Sundoulous Sports where she conducted media line interviews with celebrity guests. Yvonne just produced a two-hour television special: *New Voices: All Roads Filmmakers* for National Geographic International Channel working with indigenous filmmakers and photographers from Nigeria, Kurdistan, New Zealand, Australia and Inner Mongolia. The project is scheduled to air in March 2009. Yvonne is producing a new series for National Geographic, *Extreme Exposures* which is scheduled to air in 2010 which follows Nat Geo photographers on assignment. In addition to producing "Top Ten" a one hour magazine style show for Nat Geo Channel International.

Yvonne has received the "Producer of the Year" award from American Indian Film Institute as well as, "Outstanding Achievement in Producing" by First Americans in the Arts. And is a fellow of the Sundance Institute Producers Labs. Yvonne served on the Board of Directors for the Producers Guild of America and is Co-Chair of the Diversity Committee, which created the Producers Guild Workshop aiming to expand diverse voices in entertainment. Yvonne displays creative talent, ambition and the business skills that continue to define her career.

Dwjuan Fox, Co-Producer

Dwjuan Fox has a resume that lists a myriad of productions from music videos that date back to artists such as "Aaliyah" and "Da Brat", to present productions for "Randy Travis" and "Armor for Sleep". His commercial credits include major corporations like McDonalds, Chic Fil-A and IBM. Dwjuan's feature film experiences dates to 1992 when he served as Production Assistant on *Rookie of the Year* and *Blank Man* straight through to his present Producer credits on comedy feature *Speed Dating* with Wesley Jonathon, Chico Benymon, Chris Elliot and Holy Robinson Peete. He also completed a drama feature title *Backlight* starring Joaquim de Almedia and a TV pilot *Crenshaw Nights* starring Vondie Curtis Hall and Jude Nelson. With artistic activism in his roots, Dwjuan also maintains production experience in documentary filmmaking. In 1992 he Produced and Co-Produced *Static TV* a glimpse into the underground Hip Hop movement in Chicago, Illinois. *Static* gained international notice and was introduced domestically by KRS-1 at a Hip Hop symposium at The School of the Art Institute of Chicago (SAIC) where Dwjuan studied Film and Video Production for his undergraduate work. In 1993, with the success of several independent projects and offers and full-time employment, Dwjuan took a leave of absence from SAIC and relocated to Atlanta, Georgia where he went on to enjoy a comfortable freelance career. In 1995, Dwjuan traveled to Cairo, Egypt with a team of three as a guest of the Egyptian Ambassador's family to create a documentary about the Ancient Egyptian Pyramids.

In 1998, at the start of the Bosnian / Kosovo conflict Dwjuan left his now successful career to join the United States Army. Dwjuan quickly gained Sergeant rank and served in a Light Armored Cavalry Unit at the Joint Readiness Training Center at Fort Polk, Louisiana. He transferred to the Officer core in 2002 and served as a Tank Commander and Platoon Leader in the 2/72 Armor a forward deployed Battalion at Camp Casey in the Republic of Korea. Dwjuan completed his military commission at Fort Carson, Colorado as part of the 7th Infantry Division IRT a special unit created to train and track three brigades of deploying soldiers to Operation Iraqi Freedom. While in the service, Dwjuan completed his Bachelor's degree in Technical Business Management at Devry University and developed the IRT Standard Arabic Language and Culture Program. The program was designed to help soldiers adapt and understand the nuances and differences of Arabic culture and people.

After completing his military commission in 2004, Dwjuan went on to obtain his Master's degree in Producing from the prestigious American Film Institute in Los Angeles, California. In consequent years, Dwjuan has become the recipient of the Multicultural Motion Picture Association, Bank of America and Producer's Guild of America Diversity Awards. Dwjuan currently has several reality television series and feature scripts in various phases of development with reputable production companies in Hollywood.

CAST

In Order of Appearance

Stephanie Nyombayire

Anti-genocide activist

Sir Martin Gilbert

Author, historian, Holocaust expert

Irena Steinfeldt

Director, Department of the Righteous, Yad Vashem – The Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Authority

Mehmet Ulkumen

Son of diplomat

Bernard Turiel

Survivor

Elliot Turiel

Survivor

H.R.H. Charles, The Prince of Wales

Michael Kaufman

Survivor

Sebastian Mendes

Son of diplomat

Leo Goldberger

Survivor

Gustav Goldberger

Survivor

Christian Bauker

Diplomat

Inge Sampson

Survivor

Michael Sampson

Son of survivor

Dr. Sylvia Smoller

Survivor

Berl Schor

Survivor

Ambassador Maciej Kozlowski
Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Senator Romeo Dallaire
The General (Retired) who commanded the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR)

Agnes Hirschi
Survivor

Peter Vagi
Survivor

H.M. President Paul Kagame
Republic of Rwanda

Silas Ntamfurigirishyari
Ex-Hutu Militia Soldier

FILM CREDITS

Director/Producer

Michael King

Executive Producer

Joyce D. Mandell

Director of Photography

Anka Malatynska

Writers

Michael King

Anthony Edward Valletta

Historical Consultant

Sir Martin Gilbert

Editor

George Artope

Music

Paul M. van Brugge

Produced by:

Co-producers

Dwjuan Fox

Yvonne Russo

Line producer: UK

David Broder

Line producer: Lithuania

Arturas Dvinelis

Line producer: France

Edward Flaherty

Line producer

Dan Hooker

Line producer: UK

Roopesh Parekh

Line producer: Hungary

Anna Závorszky

Cinematographer

Sander Snoep

Makeup Department

Hair Stylist

Kamaura Eley

Production Management

Assistant Production Manager

Eduardo Rodrigalvarez

Unit Production Manager: UK

Leonora Sheppard

Sound Department

Sound Recordist

Roland Heap

Sound Mixer

David Stevens

Visual Effects by

Title Animation & Motion Graphics

Jennifer Chiu

Title Artist

John Lopez

Camera and Electrical Department

Camera Operator: "B" Camera

Daniel Gallenkamp

Camera Operator

Noah Pankow

Director of Photography: Israel and Rwanda

Tarina Reed

Editorial Department

Eyedit/Bill Artope

Assistant Editor

Daniel Gradilla

Research Advisor

Gabriella Gross