



A SONG FOR YOU

**A FILM BY SHARON KARP
CO-DIRECTED BY SILVIA MALAGRINO**

**GEORGE AND GISELA KARP AND THEIR INFANT DAUGHTER ESCAPED THE NAZIS
CROSSING THE PYRENEES WITH THE HELP OF THE FRENCH RESISTANCE.
THE FILM REVEALS THE IMPACT OF THE HOLOCAUST ON THE NEXT GENERATION
AND CELEBRATES THE BRAVERY OF THOSE WHO RISKED THEIR OWN LIVES
TO SAVE THE FAMILY.**



GISELA AND GEORGE KARP IN MARSEILLE

SYNOPSIS

In 1943 the Karp family escaped the Nazis by crossing the Pyrenees on foot with the help of the French Resistance. For five harrowing years, they were on the run, sometimes only steps ahead of Hitler's troops.

Carrying the burden of their parent's trauma, the filmmaker and her sisters return to Europe to confront events of the past in an attempt to separate them from the present.

The story is told through interviews with her mother, segments of a book her father wrote, home movies, photographs, documents and historical footage. The mother's songs are threaded throughout the film. Singing brought relief and hope in desperate times.

A SONG FOR YOU is a story of survival through strength of will, luck, and the help of others.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT



SHARON KARP SHOOTING IN THE PYRENEES

I always knew I would make a film about my family's escape from the Nazis: their flight across the Pyrenees from France to Spain, "running by night, hiding by day," my mother wearing only high-heeled shoes. It was a story my mother told over and over, their monumental accomplishment, crossing to freedom with the help of the Maquis, the French Resistance.

I became a documentary filmmaker in my early twenties, and worked primarily on films about peace and justice. After the death of my parents, I found maps and documents among their belongings that brought a new reality to their story. Suddenly everything was real. How had my family survived when so many had perished? I felt compelled to finally begin making a very personal film about my own family.

My sisters and I went to Europe to see for ourselves what my parents were talking about all those years. I also needed footage for my mother's interviews and my father's memoirs.

It has taken seven long years to make this film. During the process, I was forced to confront my own trauma as a child of survivors. I also discovered that the miracle of my family's survival was achieved through strength of will, a lot of luck, and the help of other people who risked their own lives.

CO-DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT



Sharon Karp and I have been working on various projects together since 1996. She edited my first short video pieces that were part of larger installations. Working on these projects over the years we became friends. It was Sharon who encouraged me to go back to my native country, Argentina, to examine the long-term effects and repercussions of Argentina's 1970s state terrorism. The result is the film *Burnt Oranges*—my first feature documentary essay that re-maps thirty years of obscured Argentinian history. *Burnt Oranges* gave us the opportunity to experiment with integrating different layers of complex narratives in film.

When Sharon asked me to collaborate in telling the story of her family, I didn't think twice. While I am not Jewish, I have been exposed to the stories and images of Nazism since childhood. I remember when Adolf Eichmann, who was then living in Argentina, was captured. In the

news, images of the concentration camps and the horrors of Nazism were shown constantly. At the same time, it was known that Josef Mengele was practicing medicine in the outskirts of Buenos Aires. I recall seeing the images of his bizarre and nauseating experiments on children. I was so affected by these images that I was afraid of playing on the street fearing that Mengele might take me.

From my personal history, having lived through the years of censorship and terror of the genocidal "Dirty War," I empathize with the emotional landscape of the holocaust survivors. Working on *A Song For You*, I have had the opportunity of participating in the recovery of a marvelous story of survival, creativity and love.

SILVIA MALAGRINO
IN SIBIU, ROMANIA

BIOGRAPHIES

GEORGE KASE



SHARON KARP is a founding member of the Chicago-based film collective Kartemquin Films. Since 1974 she has been involved in the production of independent films. In 1995 she formed her own video and post-production house, Media Monster. Among her award-winning films are the 1986 Emmy-nominated *Silent Pioneers*, and the Chicago Film Festival Silver Hugo Winner *The Chicago Maternity Center Story*. Ms. Karp was an editor on the Kartemquin-produced *Vietnam: Long Time Coming*. In 2001, Ms. Karp edited *Voices of the Geniza: Portraits from Medieval Cairo*, for a

multimedia exhibition at the Spertus Museum in Chicago. *Voices* won the bronze medal in the prestigious MUSE awards. Another project for the Spertus was *A Force for Change*, a film for the exhibit about the Julius Rosenwald Fund and its support of African American artists, writers, teachers, and scholars. Additional award winning projects include *The Innocent*, a film about men and women wrongly sentenced to death; *Burnt Oranges*, a film about state terrorism in Argentina during the 1970s, and *Standing Silent Nation*, chronicling the struggle of a Lakota Indian family to develop a hemp industry on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota in order to become economically self-sufficient. Recent projects include *Be Filled with the Spirit: Storefront Churches*, a look into the traditions of black storefront churches as photographed by Milton Rogovin; *Picture Man: The Poetry of Photographer Milton Rogovin*, the social documentarian who for nearly forty years photographed people around the world, focusing on men and women at work; and *Never Turning Back: the World of Peggy Lipschutz*, the story of one woman's unwavering commitment to art, peace, justice and social change. The film won the Cine Golden Eagle award in 2009.

BIOGRAPHIES



SILVIA MALAGRINO is an international award-winning artist, and filmmaker native of Buenos Aires, Argentina. She works with different mediums—photography, digital video, language, light and sound—to represent not only issues of historical and cultural relevance but also to explore in depth the fancies, the intricacies, and the idiosyncrasies of the personal imagination.

Ms. Malagrino is a recipient of numerous grants and awards including a 2010 Guggenheim Fellowship, The National Endowment for the Arts Creativity Grant 2004, the Illinois Arts Council

Artist's Fellowships (2004/2000/96/93/89/87); The National Endowment for the Arts Regional Fellowship (87); and she was nominated for the Infinity Award of the International Center for Photography (98). Her works, which have been exhibited widely in the United States, Latin America and Europe, are included in the collections of the Art Institute of Chicago; the Milwaukee Art Museum; La Bibliothèque Nationale de France, Paris, France; and the Fundação Athos Bulcão, Brazil, among many others.

In 1998 she created the poetic feature-length documentary titled *Burnt Oranges*. The film addresses the long-term effects and repercussions, personal and social, of Argentina's 1970s state terrorism. *Burnt Oranges* received wide acceptance, and generated national and international venues of interconnectivity between different communities—artistic, academic, human rights, Latin American, and the general public.

In 2005 Ms. Malagrino received the Lorenzo De Medici First Prize Award in New Media at the 5th Edition of The Florence Biennale. Recently, she was awarded with the State of Illinois Distinguished Artist award for her contributions to Art and Society.

Malagrino is Professor in Photography at The School of Art and Art History of the University of Illinois.

PRODUCTION STILLS



SHARON AND HER SISTERS, SUSIE AND ERICA, FOLLOW THEIR PARENT'S PATH TO THE SPANISH BORDER WITH THE HELP OF A LOCAL HIKER.



SHARON AND SILVIA ON LOCATION IN VIENNA 2010.

PRODUCTION STILLS



FROM THE ARCHIVE OF THE KARP FAMILY, THIS ORIGINAL DOCUMENT FEATURES A NAZI STAMP.

PRODUCTION STILLS



GISELA KARP
ESCAPED FROM
A CAMP IN THE
NOW BUCOLIC
TOWN OF
VILLE D'OLORON
SAINTE MARIE
IN FRANCE.



SHE WAITED FOR A SHIP IN SAN SEBASTIAN, SPAIN,
HOPING TO FIND HER HUSBAND IN AFRICA. LUCKILY,
SHE WAS UNABLE TO GET ON THE BOAT WHICH WAS
ULTIMATELY BLOWN UP.

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PRODUCTION STILLS



RUE MOLIÈRE: THE STREET WHERE THE FAMILY LIVED IN THE OLD PORT OF MARSEILLE.



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PRODUCTION STILLS



SHOOTING IN THE PYRENNES.

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

Title: *A Song For You*

Origin: USA

Direction and Production: Sharon Karp

Co-Direction and Production: Silvia Malagrino

Written by: Sharon Karp and Silvia Malagrino

Cinematography: Sharon Karp and Silvia Malagrino

Duration: 83 minutes

Language: English

Format: Digi Beta

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