



999



THE FORGOTTEN GIRLS

UNBELIEVABLY POWERFUL AND MOVING...
—PETER COYOTE

UNLIKE ANY FILM I HAVE EVER SEEN!
—JACK RAPKE

UTTERLY REMARKABLE!
—DAVID LEITNER

WWW.999THEMOVIE.COM

WRITER & DIRECTOR HEATHER DUNE MACADAM CO-DIRECTOR BEATRIZ M CALLEJA EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS SUSAN LACY DIANE NABATOFF
PRODUCERS HEATHER DUNE MACADAM JANE SCHONBERGER BEATRIZ M CALLEJA JAY HEIT CO-PRODUCERS STEPHEN HOPKINS DAVID KAUFMAN
FILM EDITOR BEATRIZ M CALLEJA NARRATOR RAMITA NAVAI MUSIC MARIA VOLAROVA IVAN KUDRNA

ABOUT THE FILM

LOGLINE: Ordered to register for government work service as volunteers, 999 Jewish girls are secretly deported on the first Jewish transport to Auschwitz.

SYNOPSIS: In the spring of 1942, the Nazis ordered the Slovak government to send a slave labor force and received 999 teenage, Jewish girls. Their railway ticket was a one-way trip to Auschwitz.

First-time Director/Producer and author of the international best-selling book, 999, Heather Dune Macadam spent eleven years interviewing survivors of the first transport all over the world. Digging through family and government archives, 999 unearths ground-breaking research that reveals this untold story entirely from a female perspective.

Those who survived endured more than three years in the death camps and beg us to ask the question: Why were girls targeted first?

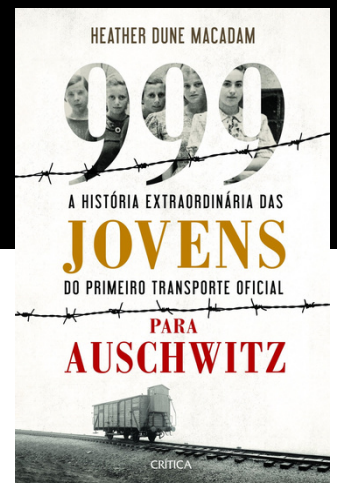


Edith Grosman #1970

WATCH THE TRAILER



BASED ON THE INTERNATIONAL BEST-SELLER





PRAISE FOR THE FILM

"Unbelievably powerful and moving...."

--Peter Coyote (Narrator) *The U.S. and the Holocaust*

"A critical addition to the annals of the Holocaust..." --Susan Lacy, creator of *American Masters*; Producer, Spielberg and Jane Fonda *In Five Acts* "

A sweeping, intimate, and often devastating account of young Slovakian women's experiences under Nazi occupation. Sure to be remembered and discussed." -- Simone Gigliotti, Deputy Director, Holocaust Research Institute, Royal Holloway, UK

"Utterly remarkable... I have never encountered a documentary with a focus solely on the survival of young women. 999 is in the realm occupied by only the best of films about the Holocaust. I remain stunned." --David Leitner, *Vienna is Different* and Oscar Nominated, *For All Mankind*

"An important story sensitively told, an indispensable contribution to our understanding of the unique fate of Jewish women during the Holocaust." -- Michael Berenbaum, Distinguished Professor of Jewish Studies and Director, Sigi Ziering Holocaust Institute

"An enduring testament to these brave girls' fortitude and their will to live by helping each other. Beautifully done." --Catherine Tambini, (director/producer) Academy Award®-nominated *"Suzanne Farrell: Elusive Muse."*

"An Incredible Story. Unique. Powerful. A Sophie's Choice of a story. The total female perspective makes 999, unlike any film I have ever seen on the Holocaust." --Jack Rapke, *Cast Away*; *The Polar Express*

"It is almost unbelievable that the story of this transport has never been told before." --Angela Andersen, Director/Producer. *"Utopia"* and *"Inviolable - The Fight for Human Rights"*

"This film's existence is so important to history and humanity. The unbelievable strength of spirit of the survivors is astounding and powerfully moving." --Jerry Rees, Director

"A terrific film, beautifully structured, so moving. It is amazing that you got all of those photographs of the women and their families." --Stephen O'Connor, author

PRODUCTION

TEAM



DIRECTOR/PRODUCER Heather Dune Macadam has spent over 20 years researching and interviewing families, witnesses, and survivors of the first official transport to Auschwitz. Her internationally acclaimed book *999* (published in 2020) has been translated into 18 languages and was a Pen Finalist in 2021.

Macadam's first book *Rena's Promise*, co-written with Holocaust survivor #1716 Rena Kornreich Gelissen is required reading in history classes around the world. In 2011, Macadam founded Rena's Promise Foundation, in the hopes of helping create a more ecumenical world unhindered by prejudice, racism, or hatred.

Macadam's work discovering lost girls and young women of the Holocaust has been recognized by Yad Vashem in the UK, the National Museum of Jewish History in Slovakia, and the Memorial Museum of Auschwitz in Poland. A former professor, she has taught journalism, and creative nonfiction for over 20 years. This is her directorial debut.



CO-DIRECTOR/EDITOR/PRODUCER Beatriz M Calleja is a filmmaker based in New York City who combines soundscape with visual narrative to tell intimate stories. She co-edited "Roads to Olympia" which premiered at the 40th Durban International Film Festival. The film, shot in three languages, tells of three athletes facing cultural oppression, intolerance, and poverty, as they pursue their dream of competing in the Tokyo Olympics. "Roads to Olympia" won Best Picture at the Bronze Lens Film Festival.

Calleja co-directed and edited "Die The Good Death", a feature-length documentary about the acceptance of death in Varanasi - an official selection at festivals in Spain, Armenia, Guatemala, and the US. She also wrote, produced, and directed the short *Pequeño*, an official selection at BAFTA qualifying London Short Film Festival, Cork Film Festival, and Vancouver International Women in Film Festival. Beatriz received her BA in Communication by the Complutense University of Madrid and studied Film Analysis and Postmodern Cinema at the University of Florence through the Erasmus grant.



PRODUCER Jane Schonberger is an award-winning writer/producer who has developed a diverse slate of projects for both major entertainment studios and independent production companies. Schonberger began her career as Director of Production for Warner Audio where she produced hundreds of dramatizations including the acclaimed "Remembering Anne Frank" with Anjelica Huston. After her transition to Production Executive for Walt Disney Co., she supervised live-action and animated programming for Buena Vista Home Entertainment (including the Studio Ghibli library) and served as Executive Producer on all in-house productions. Schonberger also served as a Production Executive for Fox, Geena Davis, and Hyperion.

Via her female-focused production company, Pretty Tough Prod, Schonberger works with new and established brands to create narratives that provide both positive social and business returns. She developed a series of YA novels under the Pretty Tough moniker along with a film and TV series based on the books. Schonberger has created content for a wide range of partners including NPR, CBS, FOX, Random House, Nike, Carnival, ESPNW, and CNN among others.



PRODUCER Jay Heit has created and produced film and television programming with top studios and production companies. He started his career as a researcher on FLASHDANCE with Jerry Bruckheimer and continued working at Paramount on BEVERLY HILLS COP. His first prominent television role was producing RIPLEY'S BELIEVE IT OR NOT for ABC followed by the Arthur Frommer Almanac for The Travel Channel and Disney Theme Parks producer (MGM Studio and Epcot). As a HOLLYWOOD PICTURES production executive, Jay oversaw THE MARRYING MAN, COOL RUNNINGS, and TRUE IDENTITY. He moved to WALT DISNEY PICTURES as the Associate Producer of HOCUS POCUS and returned to the executive ranks to oversee production on a slate of high-profile films such as OPERATION DUMBO DROP, THE SANTA CLAUSE, MIGHTY DUCKS III, 101 DALMATIANS, and JUNGLE TO JUNGLE. Jay was brought on by DREAMWORKS to executive produce the early development of SHREK and then to 20TH CENTURY FOX to oversee development of BROKEDOWN PALACE.



EXECUTIVE PRODUCER Susan Lacy is well-known for creating American Masters, the acclaimed PBS biography series. Susan served as its Executive Producer for nearly 30 years earning 71 Emmy nominations and 28 wins in addition to 12 Peabody awards, 3 Grammys, and an Academy award.

Susan also directed multiple films for the series featuring such luminaries as: David Geffen, Judy Garland, Joni Mitchell, Leonard Bernstein, Lena Horne, and Rod Serling. She produced the American Masters films Paul Simon: Born at the Right Time, LennoNYC, and No Direction Home: Bob Dylan.

Susan received lifetime achievement awards from CINE and the Lincoln Center Institute for the Arts. She served on the Television Academy's Governor's Board and is currently a member of AMPAS.

In 2013, Susan formed Pentimento Productions and most recently directed & produced the Emmy-nominated Spielberg, and Jane Fonda in Five Acts which had its world premiere at Sundance and was also an Emmy nominee. She also produced the critically acclaimed The Janes (winner of numerous documentary awards).



EXECUTIVE PRODUCER Diane Nabatoff has worked as a studio executive, production company executive and producer in film and television over her 30-year career. She is known for launching the careers of many first-time directors including Pete Berg, Joe Carnahan, and Kathryn Bigelow. She has worked in theater for Joe Papp at The Public Theater; in television at The Landsburg Company and in features at Feldman-Meeker, Vestron, Fair Dinkum Productions and Interscope Communications. She has developed and produced an eclectic range of films including Take the Lead, Narc, Operation Dumbo Drop, Very Bad Things and the award-winning documentary Dancing in Jaffa. Television credits include nominated movies Knights of the South Bronx and Racing for Time as well as the the ground-breaking series After Hours with Daniel. Since starting her own company Tiara Blu Films, her focus has been on transformational true stories that shift the paradigm.



NARRATOR Ramita Navai is a double Emmy and double Robert F. Kennedy award-winning British-Iranian investigative journalist, documentary maker and author. With a reputation for working in hostile environments, she has reported from over forty countries, made over thirty documentaries and features and worked as a foreign correspondent for print. For her latest documentary she reported and executive produced *AFGHANISTAN UNDERCOVER* for PBS Frontline and *NO COUNTRY FOR WOMEN* for ITV (2022). the result of a six-month investigation into the Taliban's treatment of women, exposing mass arrests and abductions. In addition to an Emmy Award for Outstanding Investigation, the film won a Grierson Award for Best Current Affairs Documentary, a Rose d'Or Award and an Overseas Press Club of America Award



COMPOSERS Mária Volárová and Ivan Kudrna are a Czech and Slovak team whose original score for 999 is inspired by Sephardic and Slovaki folk music traditions.

Maria studied church music at the J.L. Bella Conservatory and choir conducting at the Academy of Arts in Banská Bystrica, Slovakia. She worked as a teacher at the J.L. Bella Conservatory as well as at several art schools. Since 2019, she has been the director of the Municipal Cultural Center in Nové Mesto nad Váhom, where she lives with her family. She is the director of the Festival of Jewish Culture and actively participates in the organization of the CINEDU Film Festival for Children and Youth and the international competition of the Biennale of Cartoon Humor and Satire Novomestský osteň, as well as other art projects.



Ivan studied music at the Jaroslav Ježek Conservatory in Prague. Since 2000, he has been a member of the renowned music orchestra in Pilsen and a founding member of Mi Martef - "the first cosmopolitan liberal klezmer band" that has been updating songs from the predominantly Ashkenazi region of Europe and Russia for contemporary audiences

This is Maria and Ivan's first film score.



CO-PRODUCER Stephen Hopkins Based in the UK, Stephen Hopkins has produced and directed documentary films for more than thirty years, fifteen of which were with Granada Television. A valued producer/director, he has covered everything from politics, history, culture, and popular music. Hopkins has worked for all the major UK broadcasters – BBC, ITV, C4, Sky – and US strands such as Nova and the Discovery Channel – and was instrumental in filming many of the segments shot in Europe.



CO-PRODUCER David Kaufman is a New York-born art historian and screenwriter currently finishing up his DPhil at the Queen's College, Oxford. He previously worked as lead film researcher at Jericho Motion Pictures in London. Before embarking on his graduate studies, he gained valuable expertise in the field of artistic provenance as a researcher for the Commission for Looted Art in Europe, working to recover Nazi-looted art objects on behalf of families worldwide.



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[HTTPS://WWW.RD.COM/ARTICLE/HOLOCAUST-BOOKS/](https://www.rd.com/article/holocaust-books/)

[HTTPS://WWW.TIMESOFISRAEL.COM/THE-FIRST-AUSCHWITZ-TRANSPORT-WAS-OF-997-YOUNG-SLOVAKIAN-JEWISH-WOMEN-AND-TEENS/](https://www.timesofisrael.com/the-first-auschwitz-transport-was-of-997-young-slovakian-jewish-women-and-teens/)

[HTTPS://WWW.RNZ.CO.NZ/NATIONAL/PROGRAMMES/NINETOON/AUDIO/2018800143/99-THE-HIDDEN-STORY-OF-THE-WOMEN-ON-THE-FIRST-JEWISH-TRANSPORT-TO-AUSCHWITZ](https://www.rnz.co.nz/national/programmes/ninetoon/Audio/2018800143/99-the-hidden-story-of-the-women-on-the-first-jewish-transport-to-auschwitz)



ועידת התביעות

Claims Conference

Conference on Jewish Material Claims
Against Germany



NEW YORK
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JEWISH STORY PARTNERS



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2023**

**2024 MIAMI JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL
AUDIENCE AWARD - BEST DOCUMENTARY**



WINNER

999: THE FORGOTTEN GIRLS

DIRECTED BY HEATHER DUNE MACADAM

MIAMI
JEWISH *film* FESTIVAL

CREDITS

WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY

Heather Dune Macadam

NARRATED BY

Ramita Navai

PRODUCED BY

Heather Dune Macadam

Jane Schonberger

Jay Heit

Beatriz M Calleja

CO-DIRECTOR/EDITOR

Beatriz M Calleja

EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS

Susan Lacy

Diane Nabatoff

CO-PRODUCERS

Steven Hopkins

David Kaufman

MUSIC

Maria Volarova & Ivan Kudrna

ADVISORS

Michael Berenbaum

Rochelle G. Saidel

BASED ON THE BOOK

999: The Extraordinary Girls on the First Official
Jewish Transport to Auschwitz
by Heather Dune Macadam
(Kensington Press)

PRODUCTION SUPPORTED BY

Claims Conference, Sam Spiegel Foundation,
New York State Council on the Arts, Jewish Story Partners

DURATION: 85 MINUTES

16:9 • 5.1 STEREO • NR

USA 2023

LANGUAGE(S):

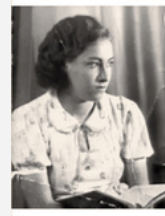
English, German, Hebrew, Slovak

SUBTITLES: English



999

THE
EXTRAORDINARY
YOUNG WOMEN OF
THE FIRST OFFICIAL
JEWISH TRANSPORT
TO AUSCHWITZ



HEATHER DUNE MACADAM
Author of the International Bestseller *Rena's Promise*

Foreword by **CAROLINE MOOREHEAD**
New York Times Bestselling Author of *A Train in Winter*



*Magduska
Hartmannova*



Ruth Richtigova



Jolena Rosnerova



Ruzena Polsterova



Edita Friedmanova



Lina Reichova



Olga Gorosova



*Bertha
Berkovicova*

