



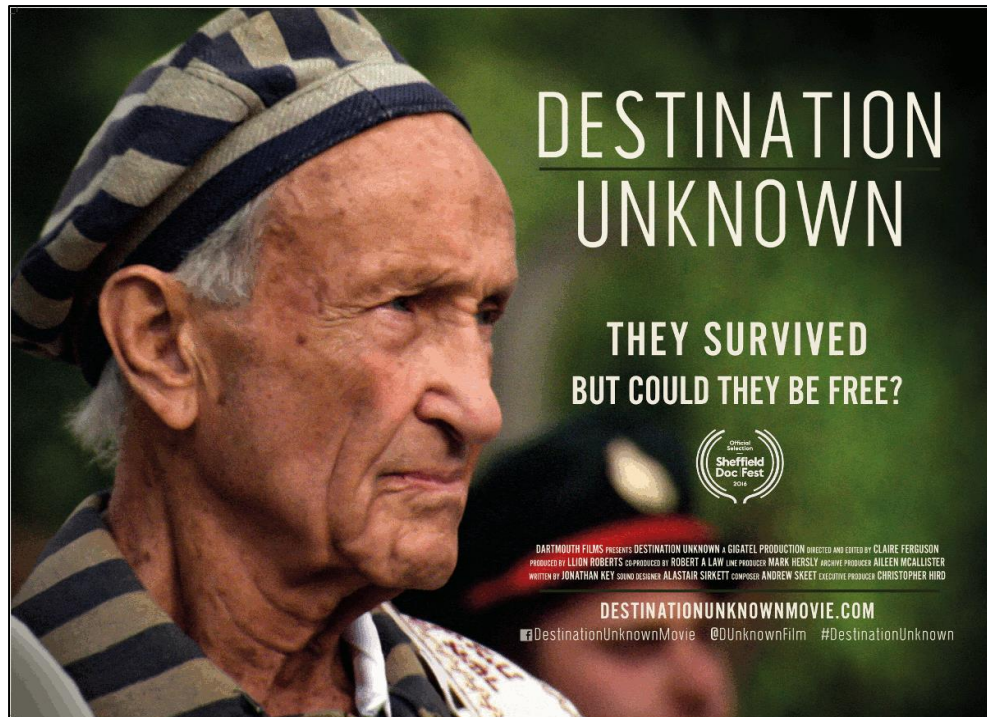
presents

DESTINATION UNKNOWN

In UK Cinemas 16th June

Directed by: Claire Ferguson

Produced by: Llion Roberts



"A masterful documentary"

Ron B. Meier, Executive Director of the American Society for Yad Vashem

"Powerful and moving"

Stephen D. Smith, Executive Director of the USC Shoah Foundation

"Heart breaking, Inspiring, astounding"

Claire Aguilar, Head of Programming, Sheffield Doc/Fest

"Inspiring!"

Shaya Ben Yehuda, Yad Vashem Israel

For the survivors of the Holocaust, liberation came over 70 years ago, but what happened during the war still burns inside. DESTINATION UNKNOWN captures the pain that continues to haunt them, and the resilience needed to live on.

Using only the survivors' own words, the film weaves a vivid narrative of lives stained by genocide. We trace their journeys from the outbreak of war, through the misery of the ghettos, to the unimaginable horrors of the camps. Most important of all, we see light in the darkness as they make new lives from the ruins of the old.

For all interviews, assets and info please contact:

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SYNOPSIS

DESTINATION UNKNOWN blends intimate testimony with immersive archive to bring the stories of twelve Holocaust survivors to the screen.

The film creates a seamless mosaic of first-hand accounts, rare archive from the time, and family Super 8 footage from after the war. The survivors share their memories, some for the first time, some for the last, bringing their experiences to a new generation.

We see those who survived in hiding, those who fought as partisans, and those who endured camps such as Treblinka, Mauthausen and Auschwitz-Birkenau. While a few managed to escape, most had to try to find a way to stay alive until the end of the war.

Their stories do not end with liberation. We see how they had to survive the chaos that came afterwards, and their attempts to build new lives.



ABOUT THE FILM

In 2003, following a chance encounter with the son of a Holocaust survivor, producer Llion Roberts embarked upon a remarkable journey. Over the next 13 years he travelled the world, interviewing and filming Holocaust survivors. Some, like Ed Mosberg, regularly returned to the camps in order to remember the traumatic events of the war. Others, like Mietek Pemper, Oskar Schindler's right-hand man, had previously refused to talk on film.

Gradually, a picture emerged of survivors who had each experienced a different horror but who all shared the pain of living with the memory.

In 2014, Llion Roberts started to work with award-winning director & editor Claire Ferguson on a feature-length account of the survivors' stories.

The film was completed in spring 2016.

In June 2016, DESTINATION UNKNOWN premiered at Sheffield International Doc/Fest, one of the world's most prestigious documentary festivals. It was described by the programmer as "heart breaking inspiring ... astounding". The film met an extraordinary response, finishing at number 8 in the festival's audience award.

Ron B. Meier, Executive Director of the American Society for Yad Vashem, called it a "masterful documentary". Stephen D. Smith, Executive Director of the USC Shoah Foundation, described it as "powerful and moving".

BIOGRAPHIES

Director – Claire Ferguson

Claire Ferguson is a British documentary filmmaker who started in drama, working on films such as *Eyes Wide Shut* (Stanley Kubrick, 1999) and *Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas* (Terry Gilliam, 1998). She made her name in feature documentaries with Nick Broomfield's *Aileen: The Life and Death of a Serial Killer* (Tribeca winner 2003) and *Concert for George* (Grammy winner 2005). Other work includes *The End of the Line* (Puma Social Impact award 2011), *Guilty Pleasures* (Grierson nominee 2011) and the multi-award winning *Up in Smoke* (2012). She story produced the Emmy nominee *Growing Up Down's* (2015). Her directorial work includes the 5 x Platinum selling *The Beatles in Help!* and *The Concert for Bangladesh Revisited*.

Producer – Llion Roberts

Llion interviewed and directed the testimonies of the Holocaust Survivors featured in 'Destination Unknown' over a thirteen year period (2003 - 2016) Work within the same period includes live transmission output for mainstream Television, including ITV, BBC Network, Channel 4, S4C, Sky Box-Office, ESPN and UK regional channels. Co-Pioneered Digital Satellite Newsgathering during the early nineties, with Gigatel co-director, Rob Law.

Co-Producer - Rob Law

Rob Law is a director of Gigatel, who produced and provided the main funding for 'Destination Unknown'. Rob was heavily involved in the project during its inception way back in 2003 and has provided huge support for the project over the past fourteen years. Rob's experience and main activities are in the Outside broadcast industry, with thousands of live events under his belt, ranging from News, Sports and Political broadcasts, many of which he has managed in their entirety.

Line Producer: USA - Mark Hersly

Mark Hersly is the son of a Holocaust Survivor (Sam Hersly) who was incarcerated in the infamous 'Block 11' at Auschwitz Concentration camp. From a chance encounter with Mark in 2002, the Producer developed a friendship and working relationship with Mark. Mark's influence in gathering the testimonies of the Survivors for the Film cannot be underestimated. Without Mark's influence in this community, many of the testimonies that were made available for the Film, would not have been recorded for 'Destination Unknown' Mark proved to be an essential catalyst to an original concept.

Sound Designer - Alastair Sirkett

Alastair Sirkett is an award-winning sound editor and designer who has worked in the British film industry for 20 years on such projects as *Mamma Mia*, *The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel*, *Les Misérables* and the soon to be released remake of *Swallows and Amazons*. As a member of BAFTA he is always looking out for interesting projects to be involved with.

Composer - Andrew Skeet

Andrew Skeet is a composer for television & film and studied composition and piano at The Royal College of Music and has subsequently written more than 60 scores for television and worked with many pop artists including Sinead O'Connor, Imogen Heap, Suede, UNKLE & George Michael. He joined Neil Hannon's *The Divine Comedy* in 2004 and has recorded and toured three albums with them.

Executive Producer - Christopher Hird

Among the many films he has executive produced through Dartmouth Films, the company which he founded in 2008, are *The End of the Line* (2009), *The Flaw* (2011), David Singleton's film telling the story of the root causes of the financial crash and *Fire in the Blood* (2013), which chronicles the battle to get affordable AIDS drugs to Africa. All these films were shown at the Sundance Film Festival in the USA, released in cinemas in the UK and have been distributed worldwide. In 2015 Hird was executive producer of the film about the crisis in international cricket, *Death of a Gentleman*, which won the Best Sports Documentary Award and a film about inequality, *The Divide*, which was released nationwide in UK cinemas in 2016.

Executive Producer - Dr Stephen D. Smith

Dr. Stephen D. Smith is Executive Director of the USC Shoah Foundation. A theologian by training, Stephen founded the UK Holocaust Centre in Nottinghamshire, England and cofounded the Aegis Trust for the prevention of crimes against humanity and genocide. In October 2013 Stephen was named the inaugural UNESCO Chair on Genocide Education and collaborates with genocide researchers and educators around the world.

In recognition of his work, Smith has become a member of the Order of the British Empire and received the Interfaith Gold Medallion. He also holds two honorary doctorates, Honorary Doctor of Letters from Nottingham Trent University and Honorary Doctor of Laws from University of Leicester.

Cameraman - Malcolm Owen

Malcolm Owen has been working for the BBC as a Cameraman and Editor for almost twenty-five years. Malcolm first became assistant editor for the BBC in 1992. The bulk of his work involves covering a wide range of topics for BBC's News and Current affairs programmes for both regional and Network output. Malcolm joined this production from the onset in 2003 and recorded many of the testimonies and the actualities at the Mauthausen, Płaszów and Auschwitz-Birkenau Forced Labour / Extermination Camps.

Cameraman - Rhys Williams

An Award-Winning Cameraman, Rhys has worked in the television industry for over twenty-five years. A Graduate from Normal College Bangor, Rhys started his career as a Film and ENG Editor with ITV in Mold. His credits include the Iraq and Afghanistan wars, Darfur/Sudan crises, Albania/Kosovo crises, 'Action Aid' in Somalia, 'Chernobyl Legacy' and various Hostile Environment documentaries for BBC, NBC, ITV, Channel 4 and Unicef.