My Synagogue is in Prague
(Moje synagoga je v Praze)
A portrait of Mark Podwal, American Jewish artist, writer, doctor of medicine and journalist. He owes his fame mainly to his drawings for The New York Times, but is also well known as the author of illustrations of books for both children and adults. His works have been on display in galleries and museums all over the world. During one of his visits, he fell in love with Prague, designed liturgical textiles for the Old New Synagogue, and mounted an exhibition “Jewish Magic in the Work of Mark Podwal”.


Directed by Jaroslav Hovorka
Script by Jaroslav Hovorka
Director of Photography František Chmela, Filip Havělka
Producer: Czech Television

My Lucky Star
(Má šťastná hvězda)
The story of a woman who survived the hell of several concentration camps. Zdenka Fantlová recounts her unique life story with its dramatic turns from a happy childhood during pre-war days, deportation to Theresienstadt and the great love she experienced there, then further deportation to Auschwitz, Gross Rosen, Mauthausen, the Death March and Bergen Belsen, where British soldiers saved her life.

videotape, 57', English subtitles, © 2004

Directed by Helena Třeštíková
Script by Helena Třeštíková
Director of Photography Miroslav Souček, Vlastimil Hamerník
Producers: Czech Television, Helena Třeštíková

Hitler, Stalin and I
(Hitler, Stalin a já)
Mrs. Heda Margolius-Kovály was born in Prague, in the Jewish family of a co-founder of the famous Koh-i-noor company. In this documentary film, she tells the story of her life, drawing a gripping picture of the 20th century with two devastating totalitarian regimes which swept through Europe and influenced the destinies of its inhabitants.

videotape, 56', English subtitles, © 2001

Directed by Helena Třeštíková
Script by Helena Třeštíková
Director of Photography Vlastimil Hamerník
Producers: Czech Television, Helena Třeštíková

Oh, You Black Bird (Ó, ty černý ptáčku)
This documentary is the most comprehensive television production on an intentionally forgotten holocaust, a protest against every act of terror or racism. During the Second World War, two Nazi concentration camps were built in the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia with the aim of eliminating the Romany population. In addition to unique archive material, the program features two survivors, one of whom died two months after the film was made. The presentation has a strong emotional impact, augmented by the music: the authentic dirges that Romanies composed in memory of the terrible suffering in the concentration camps. The film also bears shocking witness to the incredible disrespect the Communist regime had for Romanies: a pig farm and a recreation center were built on the sites of the former concentration camps in an attempt to cover up the past.

videotape, 59', English and German subtitles, © 1997

Directed by Brtislav Ryčlík
Script by Brtislav Ryčlík
Director of Photography Karel Slach
Producer: Czech Television

CZECH TELEVISION PRESENTS

Jewish stories

Colette
The Golet in the Valley
A Girl and a Magician
Lesson in Dance and Love
My Synagogue is in Prague
My Lucky Star
Hitler, Stalin and I
Oh, You Black Bird
Colette
The protagonists of the story, unfolding in the Auchswitz concentration camp, are Colette, a Jewish girl from Belgium, and Czech Jew Vili. Only their secret love helps them to survive the everyday horrors of the camp, where anything that can save life or at least postpone death for a while is an object of trading. It is devoted to all survivors of the holocaust.

Directed by Milan Cieslar
Script by Milan Cieslar
Director of Photography Marek Jícha
Producers: Czech Television, Happy Celluloid s.r.o.

Lesson in Dance and Love (Hodina tance a lásky)
A dramatic story, from the time close before the end of World War II, about lost illusions, experienced by an adolescent German girl who comprehends in a single day the monstrosity of fascism and the perversity in which her parents and people near and dear to her participate.

Directed by Viktor Polesný
Script by Pavel Kohout, Jelena Mašínová, Viktor Polesný
Director of Photography Josef Špelda
Producer: Czech Television

The Golet in the Valley (Golet v údolí)
This 1930’s story of a poor Jewish community in far eastern Czechoslovakia is narrated with gentle humor. The villagers, including some highly original and truly human characters, live in common friendship and strictly follow the rules of their religion. The peaceful course of life is interrupted when the mikveh, the purifying bath, is desecrated. Only after such a bath every month may a woman once again share her husband’s bed. On top of this, the local teamster, a poor man with a large family, is deceived by a tourist couple and unpleasant consequences follow. In spite of their hardships, optimism tightly links the community in their hope for a brighter future.

Directed by Zeno Dostál
Script by Jana Dudková, Zeno Dostál
Director of Photography Juraj Šajmovič
Producer: Czech Television

A Girl and a Magician (Dívka a kouzelník)
An engaging poetic story, taking place at the time of the German occupation of the Czech Lands, about two people of totally different background – a young half-Jewish girl and an itinerant musician – becoming close to each other. During their dramatic and hazardous wandering about the Czech countryside, they both learn to be tolerant, responsible, and to love selflessly, which helps them withstand the horrors which surround them.

Directed by Juraj Herz
Script by Jiří Hanibal
Director of Photography Jiří Macháň
Producer: Czech Television

videotape HDTV, 119’43”, m/e track, English version, © 2013
Starring: Clemence Thioly, Jiří Mádl, Eric Bouwer, Andrej Hryc, Zuzana Mauréry, Helena Dvořáková, Ondřej Vetchý, Michal Dlouhý, Miroslav Táborský, David Suchalipa and others

videotape HDTV, 106’, m/e track, English subtitles, © 2003
Starring: Ester Geislerová, Boris Rösner, Zdena Studénková, Zlata Adamovská, Lucie Holánková, Roman Zach and others

videotape HDTV, 94’13”, © 2009
Starring: Veronika Kubařová, Ivan Trojan, Raděk Holub, Barbora Hrzánová, Veronika Gajerová, Jakub Šmíd, Zdeněk Maryška and others

videotape HDTV, 90’, English subtitles, © 1995
Starring: Ondřej Vetchý, Jan Hartl, Jiří Ornest, Josef Kemr, Lubor Tokoš and others

A Girl and a Magician
(Dívka a kouzelník)
Starring: Clemence Thioly, Jiří Mádl, Eric Bouwer, Andrej Hryc, Zuzana Mauréry, Helena Dvořáková, Ondřej Vetchý, Michal Dlouhý, Miroslav Táborský, David Suchalipa and others

Directed by Milan Cieslar
Script by Milan Cieslar
Director of Photography Marek Jícha
Producers: Czech Television, Happy Celluloid s.r.o.

Directed by Juraj Herz
Script by Jiří Hanibal
Director of Photography Jiří Macháň
Producer: Czech Television

Directed by Viktor Polesný
Script by Pavel Kohout, Jelena Mašínová, Viktor Polesný
Director of Photography Josef Špelda
Producer: Czech Television

Directed by Zeno Dostál
Script by Jana Dudková, Zeno Dostál
Director of Photography Juraj Šajmovič
Producer: Czech Television

The Golet in the Valley
(Golet v údolí)
Starring: Ondřej Vetchý, Jan Hartl, Jiří Ornest, Josef Kemr, Lubor Tokoš and others

Directed by Zeno Dostál
Script by Jana Dudková, Zeno Dostál
Director of Photography Juraj Šajmovič
Producer: Czech Television

Directed by Viktor Polesný
Script by Pavel Kohout, Jelena Mašínová, Viktor Polesný
Director of Photography Josef Špelda
Producer: Czech Television

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