

# The Main Feature



Season 31 - Issue 9 (screening 27.1.11)

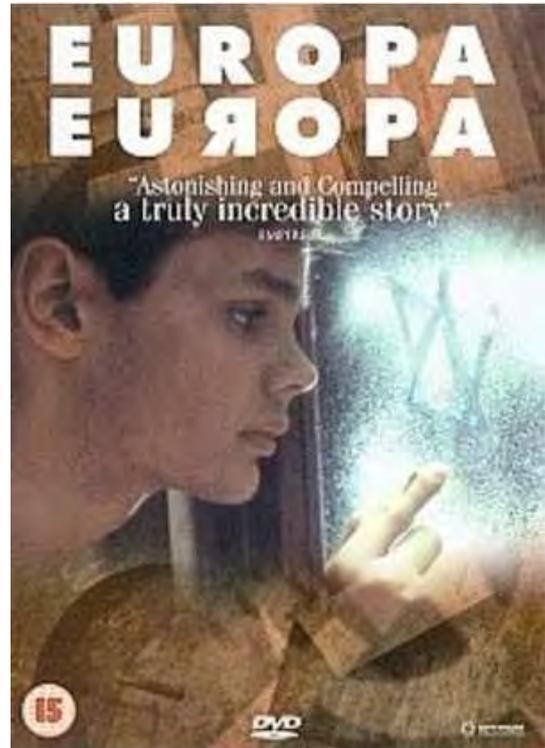
## Europa Europa

Ger 1990 Cert 15 112 minutes  
(UK release 15.5.92)

Director Agnieszka Holland  
Screenwriters Paul Hengge and Agnieszka Holland  
Photographer Jacek Petrycki  
Music Zbigniew Preisner

### Actor and role

Marco Hofschneider	Young Solomon Perel
Julie Delpy	Leni
André Wilms	Robert Kellerman
René Hofschneider	Isaac Perel
Piotr Kozlowski	David Perel
Aschley Wanninger	Eric



"You must stay alive!" was his mother's parting admonition as fourteen-year-old Solomon Perel set out from Nazi-occupied Poland hoping to find safety across the new Soviet frontier. Like large numbers of other Jews fleeing the Germans, Perel faced staggering odds against his survival. What actually transpired was far different from what anyone could have imagined.

The film is based on the autobiography by Solomon Perel which he wrote in 1985 when the burden of his life made him so ill that he feared he was going to die.

The film met with a lukewarm reception in its native Germany, with the local media being less than complementary about it. The German Oscar selection committee did not even include it as a submission for that year's Best Foreign Language Film Oscar.



The director Miss Holland, whose father was Jewish, stated when asked about this matter "They hate this subject, they really hate it, I have many German friends, but I was really shocked at how the minds of the people changed after unification. The arrogance and xenophobia which was hidden is now official. I cannot imagine making a movie in Germany. They felt guilty many, many years after the war, but it was official guilt. This time is over. This generation hates all those people who put them through the official guilt. What is left is arrogance and stupidity. My presence and my cinema is an offense to these people."

Much embarrassment ensued when it went on to become one of the most successful German films ever released in the US, winning a Golden Globe and an Oscar nomination for Best Adapted Screenplay.

*Europa, Europa* is a profound, unflinching, and unforgettable account of a young boy's perilous journey toward manhood, trapped in a world apparently gone mad, and tortured by the role he played.

Iain McGlashan



Each year on 27 January the world marks Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD). HMD has been held in the UK since 2001 and the United Nations declared this an International event in November 2005. 27 January was chosen as the date for HMD because it was on this date in 1945 that the largest Nazi killing camp Auschwitz-Birkenau was liberated.

HMD is about remembering the victims and those whose lives have been changed beyond recognition of the Holocaust, Nazi persecution and subsequent genocides in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and the ongoing atrocities today in Darfur. HMD provides us with an opportunity to honour the survivors but it's also a chance to look to our own lives and communities today. Genocide doesn't happen overnight, it's a gradual process which begins when the differences between us are not celebrated but used as a reason to exclude or marginalise. By learning *from* the lessons of the past, we can create a safer, better future.

Each year, we announce a theme for HMD which provides a focal point and a shared message for the hundreds of events which take place around the UK. The theme for HMD 2011 is Untold Stories.

Source: <http://www.hmd.org.uk/about>

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**'We carry on telling our stories because we were eye-witnesses. The most important thing is to tell people so this can never happen again' – Ibi Ginsburg, Holocaust survivor.**

The Holocaust was a tragically defining episode of the 20th century. Millions of lives were destroyed or changed beyond recognition under the Nazi regime of hatred. Families, communities and towns were totally wiped out. When the world learned, for the first time the scale of the destruction wrought between 1933 and 1945 it vowed 'Never Again'. The subsequent genocides in Cambodia, Bosnia, Rwanda and Darfur have shown that there is still much to be done to make this undertaking real.

It's easy to talk about the numbers murdered and persecuted during the Holocaust and subsequent genocides. It's less easy to truly appreciate what these figures mean. The 11 million people murdered by the Nazis were not a statistic. They were individuals. Somebody's friend. A mother. A father. A child. A colleague. A neighbour.

It is a sad fact that we will never know all of the names of those whose lives were wasted. We can never know all of their stories. But today, we can all listen and we can learn. We can find out what life was like for people such as Janina Fischler-Martinho who was forced to live in the Krakow Ghetto. We can read about the experience of Darfuri survivor Halima Bashir. We can explore the inconceivable decision made by Trude Silman's parents to send their daughter away to the UK for safety and we can ask how that changed her life and what happened to her after her arrival. We

can commit to learn more about all of the victims of Nazi persecution, including the fate of Europe's Roma and Sinti or those who were persecuted based on their sexual orientation, disability, political affiliation, religious belief or skin colour. Holocaust Memorial Day 2011 provides us with the opportunity to do this. It also encourages us to look for the **Untold Stories** in our own communities. Dr Ralph Kohn is a case in point. Granted refugee status in the UK as part of the Academic Refugee programme in 1933, he became a world class pharmacologist. Today, in many communities we live alongside refugees from across the world. On HMD 2011 let us ask ourselves if we know their stories.

Under regimes of hatred it is not only individuals who are targeted for destruction but entire communities. The village of Trochenbrod, then in Poland, was completely devastated by the Nazis in 1942 and today only the name remains. This story is not unique – countless other towns and villages were destroyed. The Valley of the Communities at Yad Vashem brings together the stories of those lost communities as a permanent monument.

There are some stories from the Holocaust which we know. We are familiar with Oskar Schindler, who saved 1200 Jews from death and concentration camps because his remarkable story was told in the 1993 film Schindler's List.

For every story we know in this way, there are many millions more which we do not. Now is the time for these **Untold Stories** to be heard. Using the written or oral testimonies of survivors and the stories of their lives we open ourselves up to hearing the **Untold Stories** of the families, communities and friends who were lost. We can use the story of the partisans, such as Jack Kagan as our inspiration to stand up for fairness and equality today. Each of us re-tell stories in hundreds of ways every day and there are many **Untold Stories** among people we live and work with – in our classrooms, offices and community centres. We retell stories when we tell our friends about the town in which we grew up or when we continue to follow the advice of older generations within our families in the ways we behave and conduct ourselves. We share interesting news stories on our blogs and social networks. On HMD 2011 there are endless stories we can tell. They are not fiction. The accounts of those who perished and those who survived can and should have an impact on our behaviour today. Some stories are not easy to hear. They can speak of danger, pain and suffering. We must not shy away from these stories – it is vital to recognise the consequences of exclusion and persecution in order for us to learn the lessons of the past. However, even in seemingly hopeless situations, we can also hear stories of hope – how survivors rebuilt their lives or the stories of vibrant communities which existed before they were destroyed, or the selfless acts of rescuers and ordinary people.

It is not enough just to tell a story. We must listen to them too. In our communities there may be stories we do not hear. Do we hear the voices of the marginalised? Do we know who lives in our community and do we choose to listen to their stories? Startling facts can come out of hearing these stories. In the UK, infant mortality rate in the Gypsy and Traveller communities is three times higher than in the rest of the population<sup>1</sup>. 65% of gay, lesbian and bisexual students experience bullying at school. Listening to these stories can bring about a change for the benefit of us all.

**'There is no greater agony than bearing an untold story inside you.'** – Maya Angelou

*Source: [http://www.hmd.org.uk/assets/downloads/HMD\\_2011\\_Theme\\_2.pdf](http://www.hmd.org.uk/assets/downloads/HMD_2011_Theme_2.pdf)*

## Reactions to ....Invictus – 13<sup>th</sup> January 2011

<b>Score</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Votes</b>	~	~	~	1	1	~	1	8	12	20	2
<b>Total received – 47</b>	<b>Average Score – 8.02</b>										

### Your Comments

Feel good film – very enjoyable  
 The sound effects people had fun!  
 Great man, great film and acting  
 Magnificent – thank you!  
 I was most surprised I enjoyed this.  
 Fascinating even when one knew the outcome  
 I don't usually like sports films but this was much more – excellent  
 An exceptional film which captured the occasion – very good direction and portrayals  
 One of the greatest sporting occasions turned into one of the great nation building occasions  
 3 prominent American artistes (Eastwood, Freeman and Damon) succeeded in making a very good "non-American" film: sentimentality kept to an acceptably low level  
 Absolutely brilliant! What a great film to demonstrate new equipment.  
 Most rugby I have ever watched – very inspiring  
 Too much rugby  
Comments including reference to the new projector:  
 An excellent film to see our new High Definition projector  
 High Definition ; high emotion!  
 And the final comment on the new projector: "Can we have David Attenborough each time?!"

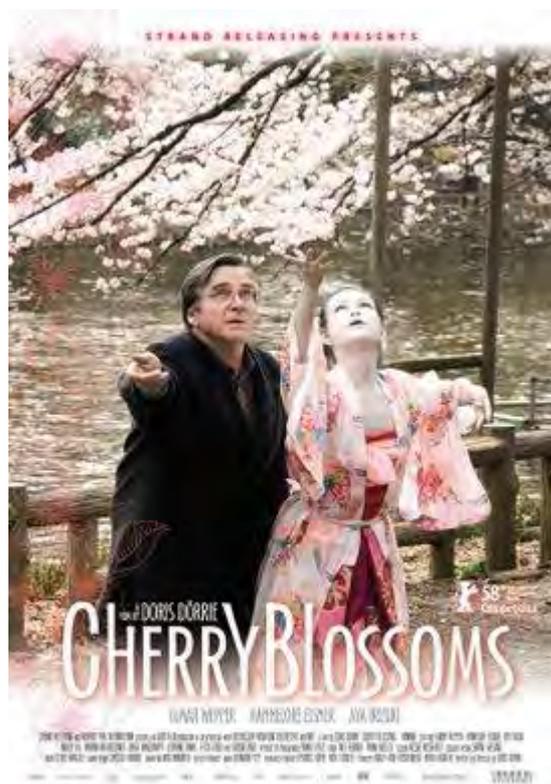
Position	Film	Average Score
1 <sup>st</sup>	Invictus	8.02
2 <sup>nd</sup>	An Education	7.83
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Le Premier Jour de reste de ta vie	7.54
4 <sup>th</sup>	Kongekabale ( <i>King's Game</i> )	7.36
5 <sup>th</sup>	The Hurt Locker	7.09
6 <sup>th</sup>	A Touch of Class	6.97
7 <sup>th</sup>	Ushpizin	5.94
8 <sup>th</sup>	Paranormal Activity	2.75

Our next presentation at 8pm on Thursday 13 February:

## Cherry Blossom

*(presented in association with the Soroptimist International of Woking & District Club)*

When Trudi learns that her husband Rudi is dangerously ill, she suggests visiting their children in Berlin without telling him the truth.



sponsors photocopying of *the main feature*