



Malcah Productions Ltd. Presents

REGINA

The Story of the World's First Woman Rabbi

- Regina Jonas-

a poetic documentary by Diana Groó



www.reginajonasmovie.com

This poetic documentary is set in 1930s Berlin. Constructed from archival materials and a single surviving photograph of Regina Jonas (1902-1944), the first woman rabbi. This is her inspiring story.

(Hungary/United Kingdom/Germany, 2013, (64 min, b/w, German Language version and English language version)

MALCAH PRODUCTIONS LTD

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PRODUCTION: MALCAH PRODUCTION LTD(UK) – KATAPULT FILM (HU)– TIME PRINTS
MEDIA(GER) 2013

LANGUAGE: English, German, Hungarian

Subtitles: English, French, Polish, Spanish,Italian,Portuguase, Hebrew

CREDITS

Producers: George Weisz, Iván Angelusz, Diana Groó, Gideon Wittenberg, Alan Reich

Co-producers: Michael Truckenbrodt, Nimrod Shanit, Júlia Berkes,

Editor:Ági Mógor HSE

Color grading: Sándor Kardos HSC

Sound design: Dániel Bóhm

Music: Daniel Kardos

Cast

Regina Jonas voiced by

Martina Gedeck (German version)

Rachel Weisz (English version)

Andrea Fullajtár (Hungarian version)

Narration:

Eszter Gantner (German)

Eszter Bíró (English)

Kata Pető (Hungarian)

Survivors, eyewitnesses:

Judit Hoffman Varga,

Lea Neukum,

Judit Nobel

Short Synopsis

Regina Jonas (1902-1944) made history as the first officially ordained female rabbi. Diana Groó's artful documentary is filled with amazing archival footage showing the rich Jewish life and culture that formed the backdrop of her times. The film traces Regina's life from her upbringing in Berlin as the daughter of an Orthodox Jewish peddler, through her studies to her ordination in 1935. During the Nazi era and the war, her sermons and her unparalleled dedication brought encouragement to the persecuted German Jews. Winner of the Lia Award at the 2013 Jerusalem Film Festival, the Warsaw Phoenix Award 2014 and featuring Martina Gedeck as the voice of Regina.

Longer Synopsis

Regina tells the story of Regina Jonas (1902-1944), the world's first female rabbi. Having grown up in Berlin's slum as the daughter of an Orthodox Jewish peddler, Jonas was ordained in Berlin in 1935 and her incredible religious devotion brought hope and encouragement to many persecuted German Jews. Despite many rabbis emigrating due to Nazi persecution, Jonas admirably continued to work tirelessly in concentration camps and was tragically murdered in Auschwitz in 1944, aged 42 years old. Voiced by Rachel Weisz (English version) and Martina Gedeck (German version) executive produced by George Weisz, Regina pays tribute to the inspiring woman, using the only surviving photo of Jonas as a leitmotif for the film.

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Awards

LIA AWARD Jerusalem Film Festival 2013

WARSAW PHOENIX Special AWARD Warsaw Jewish Motifs Film Festival

HUNGARIAN FILMCRITICS AWARD 2014

GRAND PRIX - International Film Festival of Cultural Arts, Hungary 2013

Festivals

2013: Jerusalem IFF -Sarajevo International Film Festival - 53rd Krakow International Film Festival - UK Jewish Film Festival, London Manchester premier- International Human Rights Film Festival, Budapest - Budapest Jewish Film Festival

2014- Toronto Jewish Film Festival, San Francisco Jewish Film Festival Vienna Jewish Film Festival - Trento Religious Film festival Italy, 20th Massachusetts Multicultural Film Festival, Washington Jewish Film Festival , LINCOLN CENTER NEW YORK- New York Jewish Film Festival ,

Special Screenings

INTERNATIONAL HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY , UNESCO PALACE, PARIS, 2014

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS, WASHINGTON - 2014

UK Broadcast: BBC TV 27 January 2015

REVIEWS: (English version)

"What this director has built in picture and sound is a raw, deliberately primitive newsreel that's powerfully immersive. There's a bit of slo-mo and a few touches of what look like skip-frame tweaking from time to time, but make no mistake—Regina is the real deal."

New York Jewish Film Festival 2014 - Critic's Choices

http://independent-magazine.org/2014/01/new-york_jewish-film-festival_2014_kurt-brokaw/

"I was very inspired by the story of Regina and her great humanist values. I was struck by her bravery to remain in Germany during such a volatile time to be with her community. Regina is the most significant female figure in 20th-century Judaism, but all traces of her disappeared after her death in Auschwitz, and I wanted to support the filmmaker Diana Groo in telling Regina's story in the film"

- Rachel Weisz - Ham & High

"Passionately directed and beautifully narrated, this poetic black and white film about the world's first female rabbi is wholly inspiring"

- Jennifer Tate VIEWLondon.co.uk.

"The hitherto untold story of Regina Jonas (1902-1944) is brought to life onscreen in Groó's sensitive poetic documentary, "Regina." It pays tribute to an inspiring individual whose short but influential life has been beautifully constructed out of scant visual material — there is only one surviving photograph of the Berlin born Jonas."

- THE TIMES OF ISRAEL-

"I felt I knew what the story was about and it was something that should not be lost, it should be preserved for the future and go out into the world because it has universal messages of human values," -

- George Weisz - Ham & High

„Groó's film evokes the atmosphere of Berlin in the first half of the 20th century, black and white archival footage, with voice-overs telling the story of Regina Jonas through narration, reading letters and other documents, and giving voice to the memories of those who knew Regina Jonas. As Groó recalls, putting it all together was a challenging task."

- Ayelet Dekel - Midnight East-

<http://www.midnighteast.com/mag/?p=26893>

"Regina is Mr Weisz's first foray into producing. He says he wanted to make the film — which is directed by highly rated young Hungarian film-maker, Diana Groo — to promote awareness of Rabbi Jonas's work. She is regarded as an icon by Liberal Jews but is less well known among the wider Jewish community."

THE JEWISH CRONICLE

<http://www.thejc.com/news/uk-news/108062/rachel-weisz%E2%80%99s-father-makes-his-movie-debut>

'Honoring unjustly forgotten foremothers' JERUSALEM POST

<http://www.jpost.com/Opinion/Op-Ed-Contributors/Honoring-unjustly-forgotten-foremothers-339544>

Triumph and Tragedy of First Woman Rabbi By Allen Ellenzweig <http://blogs.forward.com/the-artys-temite/190973/triumph-and-tragedy-of-first-woman-rabbi>

More Reviews:

<http://www.reginajonasmovie.com/#!/blog--comments/c1nw2>

<http://www.reginajonasmovie.com/#!/reviews/cczz>

Director's Biography

Diana Groó was educated in Budapest, obtaining a Bachelor's degree in French and Hebrew from the Faculty of Arts, ELTE (University of Budapest), followed by a Master's in TV and Film Directing from the Hungarian Film Academy in 2000. She is a co-founder of Katapultfilm Studio (2002) and DunaDock (2013). Following her prize winning shorts and documentaries, her debut feature, A Miracle in Cracow (a Hungarian-Polish coproduction), was released in 2004. What Lies Ahead, her documentary on disabled children from the Pető Institute, was awarded the Jury prize at Verzió International Human Rights Documentary Film Festival in 2005. Her second feature, Vespa (2010), a Hungarian-Serbian road movie featuring a Romani teenager, won the UNICEF and the Dialog Prize for Intercultural Communication at the Cottbus Film Festival and the Prix du Reflet d'Or for best direction at the Geneva Festival Cinéma tous Écrans (2010). "Wild Imagination," her art history series on the works of Chagall, Renoir, Bruegel and Rousseau, opened the contemporary art exhibition of Herzlya Muzeum, Israel, in 2005 and was incorporated by Haifa University's Intervisual Media Program in Painting & Cinema. In 2008 Diana premiered the stage adaptation of Katherine Kressman Taylor's Address Unknown, a prophetic novel about Nazism, also staged at São Paulo's Teatro Hebraica in 2011. Her most recent work, Regina, (2013) a poetic documentary about the world's first woman rabbi, won the Lia Award for Jewish Heritage at 30th Jerusalem Film Festival. In January 2014, Diana was awarded the Special Prize of the Hungarian Film Critics Society in Budapest. Diana's current feature film project is "The Lawyer" about the Tiszaeszlár Affair, Hungary's Blood libel case 12 years before the Dreyfus Affair. On April 1, 1882, a 14-year-old Hungarian peasant girl from Tiszaeszlár heads out to the store, never to return home. 15 Orthodox Jews are arrested by authorities under the accusation of ritual murder. A trial begins, one that has been going on for a thousand years and is still not over...

Producer's Biography

George Weisz emigrated from Hungary with his parents on the eve of WW II and lives in London. He is a double Queen's Award-winning engineer and inventor who retired from active industrial work a few years ago. He has always been interested in promoting art and visual art including films (the Hungarian Psychoanalytical Film Conference, since its inception). Due to financing difficulties with finishing funds for Regina, Diana Groó's poetic documentary about the world's first female rabbi, George Weisz was approached to rescue the project. True to his Jewish roots and values and in honor of his parents' –Joir and Kato Weisz – memory, he agreed to support this film. He believes that the message of Regina Jonas's life--a story of devotion and hope in the face of despair-- is relevant for our time and wishes it to be heard and understood around the world.