

GERMANS & JEWS

A film by Janina Quint and Tal Recanati

76 min / English & German / English Subtitles / 2016 / Color / USA / Digital



FIRST RUN FEATURES

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Short Synopsis

Today, Europe's fastest growing Jewish population is in Berlin. Germany is considered one of the most democratic societies in the world, assuming the position of moral leader of Europe as they embrace hundreds of thousands of refugees. This development couldn't have been imagined in 1945. Through personal stories *Germans & Jews* explores Germany's transformation as a society, from silence about the Holocaust to facing it head on. Unexpectedly, a nuanced story of reconciliation emerges. What began as a private conversation between the two filmmakers and friends, **Tal Recanati** (Jewish) and **Janina Quint** (non-Jewish German), grew into a cultural exchange among many and we realize that the two people are inextricably linked through the memory of the Holocaust. *Germans and Jews* is at once uncomfortable and provocative, unexpected and enlightening.

Long Synopsis

In 2009, Tal Recanati, an American Jew, visited Germany and took a tour entitled "Jewish Berlin." She was astonished to find that the Germans had dug so deeply and thoughtfully into their past, and that in the 70 years since the Holocaust, there was a growing vibrant Jewish community. She discussed her impressions with Janina Quint, her non-Jewish German friend of thirty years. Tal thought there was a story to tell, but Janina, having grown up in Germany, was skeptical. Who would be interested? However, a growing Jewish community was something that neither Tal nor Janina could have imagined. This was the starting point for their collaboration on *Germans and Jews*.

The film opens with second-generation Jews and non-Jewish Germans together at a dinner table in present-day Germany. They have gathered to discuss their highly sensitive relationship.

The narrative then explores the post-war years, specifically the transformation that took place in German society. From victims to perpetrators to defenders of human rights and democracy, Germans have made a valiant effort to face the past and to learn from it. What other country builds memorials commemorating its own atrocities? Outside of Germany, this story is less known.

We hear from Jews living in Germany, some who arrived after the war; others who were born and raised in post-war Germany; and still others who immigrated from Russia and Israel. Today, it is estimated that there are close to 250,000 Jews living in Germany. They have become the seismograph of the society.

German guilt, Holocaust fatigue and anti-Semitism are some of the topics covered in the film. Both Jews and non-Jewish Germans address these issues. A very nuanced and complex story of reconciliation emerges. What began as a private conversation between friends grew into a cultural exchange among many. Tal and Janina ultimately discovered that *Germans and Jews* are inextricably linked as they continue to seek common ground in which to view their relationship. Tal and Janina's exploration gives a glimpse into this untold story. It is at once uncomfortable and provocative, unexpected and enlightening.

Filmmaker and Crew Biographies

Janina Quint (Director and Producer)

Janina Quint grew up in Germany. Her early video essays addressed the tension between technology and authenticity. She is the co-director of the film festival Senza Frontiere/without borders and serves on the board of Film Ohne Grenzen. She lives with her husband and three children and dog in New York City.

Tal Recanati (Executive Producer and Producer)

Tal Recanati was born in the US and raised in both the US and Israel. She is an entrepreneur and the former chair of the Arnhold Global Health Institute at Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York. She is a member of the board of Seeds of Peace. Tal lives in New York City with her husband and two daughters.

Maria Giacchino (Producer)

Maria works as a producer, publicist, and event manager for the Academy Award winning composer, Michael Giacchino. Maria oversees concert performances and appearances. Their first live to picture projects, Star Trek and Star Trek Into Darkness are touring internationally. Independently, Maria's work is in production and photography. Maria lives in New York City with her husband and two sons.

Adolfo Doring (Director of Cinematography)

Adolfo's work includes shooting the Academy Award nominated documentary Capturing the Friedmans as well as shooting in a number of independent films including Steve Clark's 'SPAZ'. He has collaborated with many of music video's most acclaimed directors such as Mark Pellington, Hype Williams, Josh Taft, Wayne Isham and Brett Ratner. His camera work can be seen on projects for Pearl Jam, Alice in Chains, Nine Inch Nails, Bon Jovi, LL Cool J, Lauryn Hill, Sting, and Sheryl Crowe among others.

Amanda Zackem (Director of Cinematography)

Amanda Zackem is a Director, Photographer, Cinematographer. Producing credits include the documentary The Trial of the St. Patrick's Four ('06) and Blind Spot ('08), as well as of the dramatic feature length narrative, Thinly Veiled ('09). Her short documentary on women's cycling pioneer Georgena Terry was accepted into 22 film festivals and won Best Female Directed Short at the Cornwall Film Festival. Zackem also won Best Cinematography for her short experimental film, The Black Series, at the Women's Independent Film Festival in West Hollywood.

Michael Culyba (Editor)

Michael has worked in documentary film for over thirteen years. In 2006, Michael was co-editor on two-time Oscar Award winning director Barbara Kopple's documentary Dixie Chicks: Shut Up & Sing (Toronto International Film Festival 2006). Additional editing credits include Doubletime (SXSW & Tribeca Film Festival 2007), Sync or Swim (Silverdocs 2008), Woodstock: Now & Then (Woodstock Film Festival 2010), The Edge of Dreaming (IDFA 2010), Gary Hustwit's Urbanized (Toronto International Film Festival 2011)

and Barbara Kopple's *Running from Crazy* (Sundance Film Festival 2013). Most recently, Michael edited director David Sampliner's personal documentary *My Own Man* (TriBeCa Film Festival 2014), a Netflix Original Documentary produced by Edward Norton. Michael lives in Brooklyn, NY.

Jonathan Zalben (Composer)

Jonathan's music for film and television has been shown at Sundance, Slamdance, SXSW, Tribeca, Berlin, LA Film Festival, and AFI Docs. His work in documentaries include: *There's Something Wrong With Aunt Diane* (HBO) directed by Liz Garbus, Oscar-nominated *Redemption* (HBO) directed by Jon Alpert and Matthew O'Neill, *Hotel 22* (New York Times Op-Docs) directed by Liz Lo, *The Greatest Movie Ever Sold* (Sony Pictures Classics) directed by Morgan Spurlock, and *The Perfect Life* directed by Sam Lee, which is part of the New York Public Library's Yip Harburg Collection.

Selected Credits

Director

JANINA QUINT

Produced by

MARIA GIACCHINO

JANINA QUINT

TAL RECANATI

Executive Producer

TAL RECANATI

Directors of Photography

ADOLFO DORING

AMANDA ZACKEM

Editor

MICHAEL CULYBA

Music

JONATHAN ZALBEN

CAST

(In Order of Appearance)

Paul Kogan

Abigail Pogrebin

Wendy Grabel

Margaret Mintz

Tal Recanati

Janina Quint

Herbert Weber

Ariel Cukierman

Dr. Fritz Stern

Rüdiger von Voss

Dr. Wolfgang Huber

Herbert Grönemeyer

Deidre Berger

Rafael Seligmann

Dr. Harald Weltzer

Dr. Barbara Hahn

Rebecca Gop

Christine von Korff

Thorsten Wagner

Rabbi Andreas Nachama

Anya Bukschat

Anetta Kahane
Sandra Anusiewicz-Baer
Dr. Ilya Gop
Dr. Sergey Lagodinsky
Assaf Uni
Arik Hayut
Yuval Halpern
Rabbi Yehuda Teichtal
Susanne Suermond
Yael Schlesinger
Martina Lüdicke
Lea Oehme
David Bloom
Judith Oehme
Kaspar Herbst

Historical Consultant
THORSTEN WAGNER

Additional Editing
JEN FINERAN
AMANDA ZACKEM

Assistant Editors
JENNY McCORMACK
SEI SMITH

Additional Music

“Susoicion 001-JP”
Written by James Hall
Performed by Shake Some Action!
Courtesy of Jingle Punks

“End Line”
Composed by Eric Renard (SACEM)
Published by AXS APM (ASCAP)