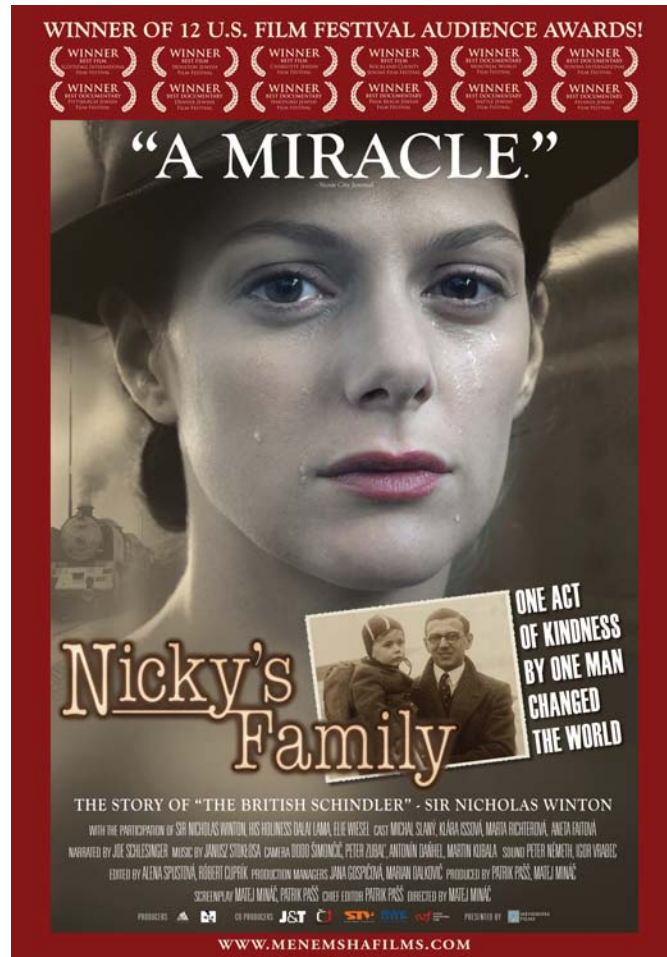


NICKY'S FAMILY

A feature-length English-language
documentary with dramatic reenactments.

Written, Directed and Produced by Matej Mináč

Written, Edited and Produced by Patrik Pašš



US Distribution:

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NICKY'S FAMILY

The secret of the rescue operation of Sir Nicholas Winton (104 years old), that has no parallel in modern history, is finally fully revealed.

A film about how the example of one man, even after 70 years, can inspire people and change the present-day world.

“Anything that is not actually impossible can be done, if one really sets one mind to do it and is determined that it shall be done.”

- Sir Nicholas Winton



Basic information about the film

Title	Nicky's Family
Screenplay	Matej Mináč, Patrik Pašš
Directed by	Matej Mináč
Edited by	Patrik Pašš
Production	W.I.P.s.r.o. TRIGON PRODUCTION s.r.o.
Producers	Patrik Pašš, Matej Mináč
Camera	Dodo Šimončíč, Antonín Daňhel, Martin Kubala, Petr Zubal
Music	Janusz Stoklosa
Sound	Peter Németh, Igor Vrabec
Co-producers	J&T, Slovak television, Czech television, RWE Transgas
With the support of	Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic, Audiovisual Fund of the Slovak Republic
Partners	Czech Ministry of Defense, Czech Railways, OHL ŽS
Acknowledgements	Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic
Distribution Genre	Documentary drama (with featured reconstructions)
Length	96 minutes
Format	35 mm film 1,85:1, DCP, Dolby Digital 5.1
Language	English
Countries where the film was shot	Czech Republic, France, Great Britain, Slovakia, Israel, USA, Canada, Hungary, Cambodia, Denmark
Admission	from 11 years old
	Copyright 2011

Nicky's Family tells the nearly forgotten story of Nicholas Winton, an Englishman who organized the rescue of 669 Czech and Slovak children just before the outbreak of World War II.

Winton, now 104 years old, did not speak about these events with anyone for more than half a century. His exploits would have probably been forgotten if his wife, fifty years later, hadn't found a suitcase in the attic, full of documents and transport plans.



Premiere of Nicky's Family in Prague, January 2011

Today the story of this rescue is known all over the world. He was knighted by the Queen Elizabeth II and the U.S. House of Representatives passed H.R. 583 recognizing his remarkable deed.



Sir Nicholas Winton with a few rescued children met with Queen Elizabeth II in Bratislava in 2008

Winton's story is a very emotional story and thousands of children in many countries decided to follow Winton's footsteps and do something important. They think up various charity projects and even help in the saving of lives of undernourished and sick children in Cambodia and Africa.

120,000 children in the Czech Republic signed a petition to award Nicholas Winton the Nobel Prize for Peace. Dozens of Winton's "children" have been found and to this day his family has grown to almost 6000 people. Let us mention only a few of the rescued "children" featured in Nicky's Family:

Ben Abeles, is one of the foremost American scientists, invented the propulsion system for the Voyager and Cassini rockets which, due to his invention, were able to photograph and film the most distant planets of our solar system. **Alice Masters**, was the former administrative officer of the World Monetary Fund in Washington D.C., **Liesl Silverstone** is prominent in the field of art psychotherapy. **Dr. Renata Laxova** is a renowned specialist in genetics at the University in Wisconsin. **Tom Berman** is an acknowledged microbiologist in the field of water resources in Israel, **Tom Schrecker** co-founded the magazine Reader's Digest, **Joe Schlesinger** is one of the most famous television reporters of the Canadian CBC television, **Lord Alfred Dubs** was minister for Northern Ireland in Tony Blair's government, **Hugo Maroon** is one of the foremost designers of international airports and **Zuzana Marešová** translated legislation for the admission of the Czech Republic to the European Union.



Nicholas Winton rescuing children in 1939 – footage miraculously discovered at the Federal Archives in Washington D.C.

It is incredible that all these people live due to one man – Sir Nicholas Winton. If you go from one name of a rescued child to another one you find out the exciting stories. Producers Matej Minac and Patrik Pass decided not to allow these newly discovered fascinating stories with precious facts about the rescue mission to "get lost". They wanted also to stress the unique phenomenon that Winton's story from the past can influence people from all over the world and motivate them to do good.

Their film demonstrates that members of Nicky's Family – the biggest family in the world, are not only the thousands of people who owe their lives to Sir Nicholas Winton but also all those who want to do something positive for our world.



Nicholas Winton – 100 years old in his garden in Maidenhead, UK

An interview with Matej Mináč, director of the film

When and under what circumstances did you find out about the rescue of Nicholas Winton's "children", a feat which has no parallel in modern history?

In 1998 when I had started the making of the feature film *All My Loved Ones* based on the story of my mother from her prewar childhood, I by pure chance came across the book *Pearls of Childhood* by Vera Gissing. She recalls her unexpected journey to England as an eleven-year-old child, organized by a Briton - Nicholas Winton, which saved her life. Her parents died in concentration camps. In England she was adopted by an English family and went to school at the Czechoslovak school in Wales. All of a sudden I got goose bumps all over my body. I immediately started to include this theme into my original concept of the feature film.

How did you meet Sir Nicholas Winton for the first time?

At that time Nicholas Winton was totally unknown. By chance I acquired Mr. Winton's telephone number and address and in February 1998 I went to visit him in his house in Maidenhead near London for the first time. I remember that I had the jitters. Never before had I seen a real hero with my own eyes, I knew them only from films or literature. Then the door opened and I was welcomed by a quite ordinary man who didn't look as if he had already celebrated his ninetieth birthday. We talked for a long time. I liked him very much; he had exactly what we here call dry English humour. Already at our first meeting it was clear to me that there would not only be a feature film. My "documentary heart" made itself heard and suggested that I also make a documentary film.

When I told my friend, editor and producer Patrik Pass about it, there was something that really astounded him. Nicholas Winton had also rescued the British film director Karel Reisz who directed *The French Lieutenant's Woman* with Meryl Streep and Jeremy Irons. Patrik hardly believed me and checked up on whether the man who wrote the most famous book on film editing was really Winton's rescued child. After reading his textbook on editing many years ago Patrik decided to become a film producer and editor. I showed him also the emotional BBC show of Winton's first meeting with rescued children in 1988. This really deeply affected him and I was glad because I had suddenly won the best working partner for my projects.

So in 2002, together with Patrik Pašš, you made a lauded television special on Sir Nicholas Winton, which especially aroused the interest of young people. Did you expect such a positive and strong reaction? According to your opinion - what caused this?

First of all it was not our intention to make a film for young people. At that time we had only one aim - as long as Mr. Winton was alive to tell his story and perhaps make the world thank him. We said to ourselves that it would be unfair for such an unique deed to disappear through the trapdoor of memories, because at that time only very few people knew about it. There was not even a mention of Mr. Winton on internet. But what started to happen after the TV special aired was astounding. The then British Prime Minister, Tony Blair, saw the film and proposed Queen Elisabeth II to include Mr. Winton on the list of personalities to be knighted. U.S. House of Representatives passed H.R. 583 recognizing his remarkable deed. And Winton soon started to collect honors and distinctions all over the world. He became a celebrity and is still being received by heads of state, presidents and ministers...

But all this was nothing compared with the reaction of children, of young people. The film was seen by literally millions of children from Asia to America, in places where no one had ever heard about "a Hitler" or World War II. Despite that they were all deeply moved. Influenced by this film, many of them started to do good deeds. Apparently there are some mysterious ingredients in the Winton story, that results in what we call the "Winton virus of good".

The book, *The Lottery of Life*, about Winton and "his" children was distributed to ten thousand British schools and the same was done in the USA, Germany, France, Canada, New Zealand and Slovakia. At present an educational program is being started in Denmark. Amazing is that this project is running in as far places as the Dominican Republic, in a total of fifteen countries. And from everywhere we receive reports of the good deeds students are doing, little and great ones.

Was that the decisive impulse for making the film Nicky's Family which you started shooting in 2006? Why did you decide to use the documentary form with feature reenactments?

Personally I always wanted to make comedies like Woody Allen and Winton story was somehow only a sidestep from what is my life's main ambition – to make amusing, intelligent comedies. But a chain of events changed my plans. New, unbelievable stories came to light; dozens of Winton children were discovered recently and young people, influenced by this story started to do good deeds, modern "Wintons" made their appearance. Moreover, Nicholas Winton himself, at that time 100 years old, could tell his reaction to all this. So we plunged into making this documentary with feature reenactments Nicky's Family for theatres. We wish to give a definitive picture of everything that happened using the results of

the latest discoveries.

The film Nicky's Family publicizes hitherto unknown facts and stories of the newly discovered "Winton children". How did you manage to gather them?

Discovering things is always an adventure. But here you don't deal with **heroes** long dead, here many of them are alive, what makes it even more exciting. When a new rescued child is found this is generally followed by a meeting with Mr. Winton. Due to the fact that most of the children lost their parents during the war, the today 104 years old Winton has become for them an honorary father and for their children and grandchildren an honorary grandfather. This sometimes bothers Mr. Winton. He has often told me: "Matej, since it is your fault that so many people know me now, keep on writing to me when their grandchildren are born, when they have problems, when their children marry... you should arrange for me a secretary who would attend to this extensive correspondence". So we really had to help him with this. I believe that deep inside it is a great joy to him to have such a big family.



Finding details about beautiful Swedish spy working with Winton in 1939 was exciting

Some parts of the film are also scenes shot during the journey of the "Winton Train", which pulled out of the Prague Wilson railway station on the 1st of September 2009 and carried several of the rescued children to London, where Nicholas Winton himself welcomed them. Was it complicated to organize such an event?

We only co-organized the Winton Train. The main credit for that is due to Mr. Zbynek Honys from Czech Railways. After he had seen the special he became so enthusiastic that together with his colleagues he started to prepare this journey of the commemorative steam period train which left Prague on the 1st of September 2009. Symbolically it was the date when 70 years ago the last Winton children's train with already 250 children on board was cancelled because the WWII broke out. The Winton Train was a tribute to all those children as well as their parents who perished in WWII. The arrival of the train in London was wonderful - the railway station looked as if Michael Jackson was besieged by fans. All the main world media, television, hundreds of reporters covered this event. When I think that a few years ago Winton's name was unknown, it was incredible.



The last good-bye from Wilson station in Prague

How much time did the realization take and how complicated was this process? In this connection can you recall the most happiest- and on the contrary - their hardest experience you had?

When I was small I wanted to become an archeologist. Like Heinrich Schliemann I wanted to discover Troy. It is funny that film business somehow fulfilled my ambition. For me Winton's story was like opening Tutankhamen's tomb. And there are still so many mysteries, there are only 250 rescued children known from the Winton's list of 669. Where are the 300-400 missing children?

I can recall the exact moment when a shiver ran down my spine. In September 2008 we were preparing to shoot feature reenactments of Nicky's Family. One of the crucial scenes takes place at the Wilson station in 1939 when the children took leave with their parents, not knowing that most of them forever. According to a legend one mother couldn't bring herself to part with her weeping daughter and she pulled her out from the train, holding her tight and crying. At the last moment before departure she returned her into the compartment, and thus saved her life.

Three weeks before we were due to film this scene, I was in Washington DC recording the story of the American "Winton child" Alice Masters. I was shocked to learn that this story was hers. She explained: "At the train station my mother pulled my younger weeping sister from the train through the window. My sister cried heavily and mother too. At that moment the dispatcher blew his whistle and the train started to move. My mother didn't know what to do. She ran after the train with her daughter in her arms. She was desperate – keep the child or give her back? And then, at the last moment, she returned my sister to our compartment through the window." You must understand, I shivered with excitement. The story, which I had hitherto known only as a legend, came alive and was even more dramatic. The mother's decision acquired a downright apocalyptic dimension, because the train was moving and she was forced to make the final decision in no time. In many ways it reminded me of *Sophie's Choice*. I immediately changed the whole filming of this scene according to what she said.



On the way to Britain

I remember another story which moved me deeply. The first 25 children flew to Sweden and so we looked for these Swedish rescued children. And I actually found one "Winton child" in Sweden - Hanus Weber. I was very excited. He agreed upon interview and Hanus told me about his mother, Ilse Weber, she was an excellent writer for children. When she got with his younger brother to concentration camp in Terezin in 1942, she worked there as a nurse in the children's department. Of course, they didn't have any medicine to help sick Jewish children there, so she came up with the idea to relieve their suffering. She composed beautiful, melodic songs for them. When her children were put into a transport to Auschwitz she was so afraid for them that she took Hanus's younger brother and went with them voluntarily. On arrival in Auschwitz they were immediately sent to the gas chamber. When they undressed a family friend, who was in the prison squad that was in charge of the removal of dead bodies, said to Mrs. Weber : "This is not a shower, but a gas chamber. But, if I can give you an advice, go inside with children, do not scare them. Sit down in the corner and sing. Because when you sing, you inhale the gas deeper and you die faster in less pain". She followed his advice and she sang with children the lullaby Wiegala. After the war this composition was found in Terezin under dramatic circumstances. Hanus showed me his mother's lullaby sung by Liv Migdal. Then I lost control over my feelings, I couldn't say a word and only tears remained. That lovely music and text was a real message from hell. I often thought how one can show this utter inhumanity of the concentration camp, suddenly I knew how.

When filming in the USA, Slovakia, the Czech Republic, Cambodia, Canada, Israel, Denmark, France, Sweden and Hungary you generated 450 hours of film material. How demanding was the editing ?

The editing was really terrible work. If I hadn't had a team of excellent editors, I would have drowned in that surplus of material. There is enough to make several more films about Winton's children, about their experiences during communism, etc.

Let me give you some numbers: we filmed with interruptions for 6 years. In the editing room and sound production studio the film was processed an unbelievable 4000 hours.

Which aspect of film-work do you personally prefer - screenwriting, choosing locations, casting actors or the shooting itself...?

I like everything I do, because otherwise I couldn't stand a filmmaker's life. You are constantly under great strain, you keep thinking that if there was more time for this or that,

how much better you could do it. As a matter of fact, we filmmakers work under the constant pressure of an imaginary whip - the deadline for finishing the film. On the other hand we are grateful for it, otherwise maybe films would never be finished.

How much has the original screenplay changed due to the increasing film material?

The original idea, which came to me in an airplane when, Patrik Pašš and I were returning from London after visiting Nicky as everyone calls Nicholas Winton, has in fact never changed. From the beginning we wanted to show how tragic events of the past, forgotten for 50 years, can turn into an impressive story for present times and help people to create their future.

What key did you use when choosing actors for the featured reenactments in the film?

I rather wanted to cast unknown faces, so that when seeing Winton, the audience would believe that it was actually Winton, when seeing parents, they believed that they were really parents. In the case of the mother at the train station who was unable to decide till the very last moment whether to let her child go or not, I casted a famous Czech actress Klara Issova. To be honest I couldn't imagine anybody in the Czech Republic who could do justice to this part with such brilliance.



Winton children with their rescuer

The family of "Winton children" and their offspring is steadily increasing in number. With how many of them are you in contact?

I am in contact with about 50 of them and due to the work on the films I today know almost everything about their lives. We are happy every time a new "child" appears. One such case was very emotional. After the screening of my previous film at the festival in San Diego I had Q&A. One man said that as a six-months old baby he went by train to London in 1939 but did not know anything more about it. He asked me for my advice where to obtain more information. I told him that there was something we could find out on the spot. I opened Winton's list and found his name on it, his date of birth, the address of his adoptive parents

and some other information. After I had read it to him his face went red and he ran out of the place like a madman.

We met again the next day for lunch, he apologized for his behavior - because it had been so emotional to him and he hadn't wanted to cry like a baby in front of the others. We called Nicky Winton and the man thanked him for his rescue - and the already large family increased again....

Where do you yourself see the basic mission of the story which the film narrates about?

I don't like words such as mission because it sounds very pathetic. Filmmakers often think more about the film's message than the story itself. And I noticed that every good story carries its own message automatically. Look at the stories in the Bible, for instance, about Adam and Eve and about their sin. You can interpret it a thousand ways but the story is wonderful and will inspire people endlessly. So for me Winton's story is incredible, still alive today and sometimes motivates people in creating their future. And I am happy with it.

In connection with Winton's deed you speak of the "virus of good" which has infected so many people. What astonished you most?

You know, good cannot be measured. If a little girl gives her hair to make a wig for a child with cancer, or young people save hundreds of children in the third world from certain death, what is more? Every good deed counts and fills you with the feeling that what you do makes sense.



Present-day Winton – Martin Bandzak rescuing children in Cambodia

I want to mention one other basic matter. When you watch the news on TV you are overwhelmed by negative information. From all sides you hear how the world is corrupt and everywhere bad people are.... I think that to a certain extent this is not a fair picture. Most people are good and they want to do good things. Most people will help you to get up if you fall on the street. Basically people are rather good than bad, but there is a certain problem with it. Due to the fact that young people constantly hear from the media that we are all thieves and rogues, they naturally lose their ideals, they are disgusted and don't believe in anything. Therefore I think it is necessary to stand up to this trend. To make also films that don't make you feel like committing suicide after watching them, but to make films that will strengthen us, fill us with hope and resolve.

Biography of Sir Nicholas Winton

He was born on 19th May in 1909 in London where his family had emigrated from Germany. As a matter of interest, Nicholas's mother, Barbara, was the first girl to pass GCE examinations in Germany. After he graduated from school in Hampstead, London, he went to Stowe. Here, he was greatly influenced by his mathematics teacher and this was later reflected in the choice of his profession.

He left Stowe and completed his education in evening school. Later he got to Hamburg in Germany where he worked in the Behrens Bank and later at the Wassermann Bank in Berlin.

During his visit to Germany after 1933, he witnessed the persecution of Jews by the Nazis, he began to realize what danger threatened the whole of Europe. To this day it is hardly explainable fact that Nicholas Winton was able to anticipate that in 1939, people on Hitler's black list were under the threat of physical annihilation, although talk about concentration camps, the "final solution", didn't start in Germany until after the conference in Wannsee in January 1942.

Later, Winton was employed by the National Bank in Paris, where he completed his qualifications in banking. He wanted to spend a year in New York, but America was still shaking from the aftermath of the economic crisis and so, upon his father's request, he returned to England. For a short time he worked in London at the Anglo-Czech bank. After that he started to work for the firm Ullman & Co, which often sent him abroad to open new accounts, mainly in Greece and Egypt.

His great hobby was fencing, he was a top fencer and if World War II hadn't started he would have represented Great Britain at the Olympics in Japan. After the war he, together with his brother, founded the biggest British fencing federal contest - the *Winton Cup*, which is still taking place today. As a lover of aviation he took a course in flying and in 1933 acquired a pilot's license. In 1942 he joined the RAF - the military airforce of the British armed forces.

In 1938 he was 29 years old and was preparing to go to Switzerland for his winter vacation. But his friend, Martin Blake, with whom he had planned to go there, called him and told him that he was cancelling his vacation and leaving for Prague on an important mission and needed his help. Winton didn't hesitate and joined his friend Martin Blake at the Hotel Šroubek in Prague. He learned about the refugees fleeing before Hitler's army from the Sudeten borderlands which were annexed from Czechoslovakia. Blake was sent here by the British Committee for Refugees from Czechoslovakia and was charged with the task of helping adults to flee, especially politicians, intellectuals and artists. Winton, learning that there was no organization to help endangered children, decided to do something. Due to the fact that at that time a number of people and institutions did not take Hitler's threat seriously, he met with many obstacles. But by September 1st 1939, he was able with his close collaborators in Prague – Trevor Chardwick, Bill Barrazetti, Dorreen Warriner and dozen more to organize transports for a total of 669 children, not only from Jewish families to safety.

His almost illegal organization managed to arrange visas, medical certificates and to get support from many charitable organizations. The departure of the last train was stopped by the official beginning of WWII. Winton thus saved the lives of almost seven hundred Central European children.

After the war Nicholas Winton went back to office work and his exploits would have probably been forgotten if his wife, fifty years later, hadn't found a suitcase in the attic, full of documents and transport plans. She gave them to the historian Elisabeth Maxwell, who contacted Esther Rantzen from BBC. She organized a meeting between Winton and his children at the BBC studio. The program was successful, but Winton was again soon forgotten again. Film director Matej Minac discovered Winton's story in 1998 and began to share it through television and film.

Despite the fact that this inconspicuous "British Schindler" kept his noble deed secret for fifty years, at the end he was knighted by Queen Elisabeth II, received the Order of the British Empire. He received also many other distinctions from such presidents as V.Havel (The Order of T.G. Masaryk), G.W.Bush, and others. One small planet, discovered in 2000 by Czech scientists, M.Tichy and J.Ticha, was named after him.

Nicholas Winton is unbelievably active and is constantly in good humour in his 104 years. Although his wife died several years ago, he does not feel lonely. He has a large family - his son Nicholas, his daughter Barbara, his two grandchildren Holly and Laurence and of course the biggest family of his rescued "children" which today represent almost 6,000 people. He is still engaged in charity work and this autumn he will open new "Winton" house for elderly near Windsor.



Nicky Winton with his granddaughter Holly

CV

Matej Mináč

Born 1961 in Bratislava, Slovakia

Film director, producer, writer

Graduated in film directing at the Academy of Music and Dramatic Arts in Bratislava (VŠMU)

Most significant projects:

Nicky's Family (2011)

Full-length documentary film with feature reconstructions

35mm, Dolby Digital 96 minutes

US theatrical distribution will begin in January 2013.

Nicholas Winton – The Power of Good

documentary film shot in English 35mm, Dolby Digital 62 min.

Prizes: WINNER of 2002 INTERNATIONAL EMMY

AWARD for outstanding documentary program

NOMINEE FOR THE 2006 NEWS AND DOCUMENTARY

EMMY AWARD representing HBO/CINEMAX

2006 Christopher AWARD – New York

2008 Czech Lion – Best Czech Documentary for the last 15 year

for film that affirms the highest values of the human spirit

“Special Mention” at the 19th Troia Int’l Film Festival (Portugal)

TRILOBIT Prize (Czech Republic), Slovak Film Critic’s Prize

and Prize IGRIC (Slovak Republic)

2005 Pacific Jewish Film Festival Spirit Award

Grand Prix - Nine Gates Film Festival (Czech Republic),

First Award – Warsaw Jewish Film Festival (Poland)

Audience Awards - Washington Jewish Film Festival, Miami Jewish Film Festival

Most important film festivals: Closing night gala film of the Palm Springs Int’l Film Festival, USA,

Official documentary competition **Karlovy Vary Int’l Film Festival, Vancouver Film Festival** (the

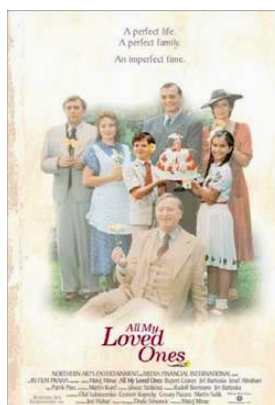
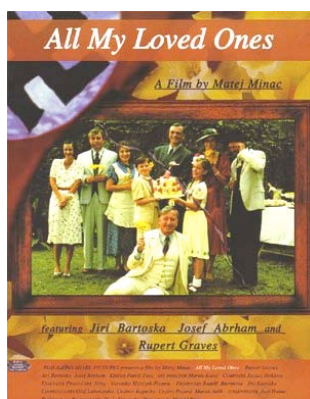
12th most popular film of the festival rated by the audience), **Haifa Film Festival, Leipzig Film**

Festival for Documentary, Barbican Film Season, San Diego Jewish Film Festival, Phoenix Jewish

Film Festival, Palm Beach Jewish Film Festival, closing film of Toronto Jewish Film Festival,

Brighton Jewish Film Festival Vancouver Jewish Film Festival, Cleveland Int’l Film Festival.

Festival



All My Loved Ones

feature film

Czech/Polish/Slovak/German

cooproduction,

supported by



The film tells the true story of a Czech-Jewish family of whom only the ten-year-old son survives the holocaust thanks to the Winton rescue mission. British actor Rupert Graves plays the part of Winton. The film was screened on more than sixty film festivals and won twelve international prizes. The film is currently in DVD and video distribution in the USA. **Coproducer and European distributor of the film is Beta Film (München).**

PRIZES: Slovak Republic nomination for the Academy Award Motion Pictures Arts & Sciences, for the best foreign film, *OSCAR*; *XVI; Troia International Film Festival – Portugal – Jury Prize; Grand Prix - International Film Festival Sedona(USA)*; Annual Czech Film Prize (Czech Lion) for Jiri Bartoska for the best supporting actor (Czech Rep.), Award of the Slovak Television Union and the Literary Fund *Igric 2000* for best editing and photography (Slovakia)

ADIENCE AWARDS (Best Feature): *Nortel International Palm Springs Film festival – USA* (was rated by the audience as the second best film of the 180 films in the competition), *Finale Plzen – Czech Republic*, *Washington Jewish Film Festival*, *Sao Paulo Jewish Film Festival*, *Festivals of Festivals - Palm Springs*, *Würzburg Film Festival (Germany, 2002)*, *Atlanta Jewish Film Festival (2002)*.



- > *Four Angry Men (Čtyři rozhněvaní muži)* – feature film (Critic's Prize at Trutnov Festival of Comedy)
- > *I'm Shooting from up on a Branch and I feel Great* - film documentary about film director Juraj Jakubisko with Frederico Fellini and Giulietta Massina
- > numerous film portraits of notable Czechs for the series *GEN* and *GENUS* for Czech Television; *Tomáš Bata*, *Adolf Born*, *Emil Zátopek*, *Jan Svoboda*, *Břetislav Pojar*, *Miroslav Holub*;
- > documentaries, large-screen audio visual programmes and short action films: *Casanova*, *An Ambiguous Trip to the End of the World (Nejasná cesta na konec světa)*, *Trails (Stopy)* (awarded the Red Cross Prize in Varna), *A Slovak Day in Paris* (shot in French)
- > a five-part TV series *The Magic of Photography* about the foremost Czech photographers; (*Jan Saudek*, *Karol Kallay* and others) produced by KODAK and by Slovak Television.
- > directed the *Riddles (Hádanky)* a visual part of the National Theater's Laterna Magica multi-media ballet performance
- > artistic documentaries and music films: *I was born a Prague Jew*, *The reconstruction of the family Album (with Jiří Menzel)*, *Hebrew Meditation*

PATRIK PAŠŠ (1948)

Producer and Film Editor



Prominent producer, editor and professor at the Academy of Performing Arts in Bratislava, founder of TRIGON PRODUCTION Ltd. Winner of: 2002 International EMMY Award

2006 Christopher Award

2009 Czech Lion

Patrik Pašš & Karel Reisz



Graduated from The Academy of Performing Arts in Prague (FAMU - Editing) in 1983. Worked as editor on numerous award-winning films and documentaries. Founder and CEO of TRIGON PRODUCTION since 1996, professor of editing at the Academy of Performing Arts in Bratislava (VŠMU). Member of the Slovak Film and Television Academy, Vice President of Slovak Audiovisual Producers Association (SAPA), Co-founder of the Slovak Audiovisual Fund and its Chairman of the Board in 2009-2010.

Filmography - Producer

NICKY´S FAMILY - premiere January 20, 2011

© 2011 /95´/ HD, DVCam/ feature documentary. Co-production: TRIGON PRODUCTION & W.I.P. & Slovak Television & Czech Television. Distribution: 2011 Director: Matej Mináč, Script: Matej Mináč, Patrik Pašš, Music: Janusz Stoklosa.

OLD TOWN CRIME TALES

© 2010 / television drama series / 7 x 56 min./ Co-production: TRIGON PRODUCTION & Slovak Television & Czech Television. Distribution: 2010 Director: Ján Sebechlebský, Script: Alex Koenigsmark, Music: Lubica Čekovská.

3 SEASONS IN HELL

© 2009 /100´/ 35mm/ feature film. Director: Tomáš Mašín / Script: Tomáš Mašín, Lubomír Drozd/ Producer: Dawson Productions & Filmstudio Babelsberg & TRIGON PRODUCTION s.r.o. / Production in: 2008 / Distribution: 2010 /

Awards: 11 Czech Lion nominations 2010, out of which: Czech Lion for Best Actor, Best camera, Best sound; selected into first nomination round for 2010 European Film Awards

HEAVEN, HELL...EARTH

© 2009 /95´/ 35mm/ feature film. Co-production: TRIGON PRODUCTION & Slovak Television & Czech Television. Distribution: 2009 Director: Laura Siváková, Script: Laura Siváková, Music: Oskar Rózsa. Awards: Special Jury Remi Award - 43rd WorldFest, Houston, TX, USA, National Winner of Hartley-Merrill Prize / Awards SIVAKOVA: The Viewer's Award IFF Bratislava, Bronze Grape IFF Lagow and IGRIC Award for „Quartétto“

WAR GAMES

© 2008 /120´/ DigiBeta / documentary. Co-production: APPLE FILM & ARTE (FR) & TV Polska & TRIGON PRODUCTION. Director: Dariusz Jablonski, Script: Dariusz Jablonski, Music: Michal Lorenc. Opening Film at IDFA 2009 / Awards JABLONSKI: Grand Prix Fipa d´Or, Prix Europa - Berlin 1998, Best Documentary - Television Festival - Banff 1999, Adolf Grimme Prize 2000 „The Photographer“

MY FATHER GULAG

© 2008 /52´/ DigiBETA/ documentary. Co-production: TRIGON PRODUCTION & CNF Russia: 2008 Director: František Palonder, Script: František Palonder, Music: Marcel Palonder. Awards: 2008 Special Jury Award - One World Film Festival, Bratislava, 2009 Silver Award - Zolotoj Buben Film Festival, Russia

THE OPTIMIST

© 2008 /52'/ DigiBETA/ documentary. Co-production: TRIGON PRODUCTION & Slovak Television & Slovak Film Institute: 2008 Director: Dušan Trančík, Script: Dušan Trančík, Erika Podlipná, Music: Pressburger Klezmer Band. Awards: 2009 IGRIC for Best TV documentary / Awards TRANČÍK: Grand Prix IFF Karlovy Vary 1969, TRILOBIT 1969, IGRIC 1969 „Photographing Inhabitants of a House“

STRAWBERRY WINE

© 2007 /110'/ 35mm/ feature film. Co-production: APPLE FILM PRODUCTION Poland & TRIGON PRODUCTION Distribution: 2007 Director: Dariusz Jablonski, Script: Andrzej Stasiuk, Dariusz Jablonski, Music: Michal Lorenc. Awards JABLONSKI: Grand Prix Fipa d'Or, Prix Europa - Berlin 1998, Best Documentary - Television Festival - Banff 1999, Adolf Grimme Prize 2000 „The Photographer“

MARTIN SLIVKA - THE MAN WHO PLANTED TREES

© 2007 / 90' /DBCT/ documentary. Co-production: TRIGON PRODUCTION & Slovak Television & Slovak Film Institute. Premiere: 16. March 2007, Director: Martin Šulík. Awards ŠULÍK: nominated at IFF Karlovy Vary 2006 „Sluneční stát“, „Záhrada“ 1995 Grand Prize at Cottbus FF, 1995 IFF Karlovy Vary, 1995 Torino IFF, „Klíč k určování trpaslíků“ 2003 Czech Critics Awards

BYE, BYE HARRY

© 2006 /92' /35mm / black romantic comedy. Co-production: NFP TELEART, NO SNOW PRODUCTIONS, BANANA FILMS, TRIGON PRODUCTION. Director: Robert Young, Script: Graham Alborough, Cast: Tim Dutton, Bela B. Felsenheimer, Moanna Ferré, Veronica Ferres, Iddo Goldberg, Joanna Page, Til Schweiger, Vanessa Wieduwilt

TWO SYLLABLES BEHIND

© 2004 /84' /35mm / feature film. Co-production: TRIGON PRODUCTION & Slovak Television & Czech Television & Ateliery Bonton Zlín. Distributor: SPI International Slovakia. Script, Director: Katarína Šulajová, Music: Jan P. Muchow. Awards: Audience Award-6th International Film Festival Bratislava 2004, Slovakia /Minister of Culture Award - 45th International Film Festival for Children and Youth Zlín 2005, Czech Republic /Students Jury Award - Festival of Young Film Pécs 2005, Hungary /Ota Hofman Award - 37th Children's Film and Television festival of Ota Hofman 2005, Ostrov, Czech Republic

RESCUERS

© 2004, six-sequel TV series about a mountain rescue squad. TV broadcaster: STV, ČT Director: Vladimír Michálek, Script: Jiří Křižan, D.O.P Martin Štrba, Music: Michal Lorenc AWARDS: IGRIC Award 2004 for Best Camera: Martin Štrba

RAIN FALLS ON OUR SOULS

© 2002 /80' / 35 mm / feature film. Director: Vlado Balco Script: Jozef Paštéka

The most noteworthy project:



NICHOLAS WINTON - THE POWER OF GOOD

Czech Lion 2009 - best documentary in 1993-2007

Nomination of The National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences in 2006, International EMMY Award 2002, New York; numerous domestic and international awards including Christopher Award 2006.

© 2002 /64'/ 35mm / documentary. Coproduction: TRIGON PRODUCTION s.r.o. & W.I.P., s.r.o. & Czech Television Director: Matej Mináč, Story: Matej Mináč, Patrik Pašš.

Selected Filmography - Editor

ALL MY LOVED ONES (*Všichni moji blízcí*) - 1999

Directed by: Matej Mináč

IGRIC 1999 for editing; **Grand Prix International Film Festival Sedona**, USA; **The Czech Lion 1999**, **XVI Troia International Film Festival** - Portugal, **Nortel International Palm Springs Film festival** - USA, Slovak nomination for the **Academy Award- Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences** for Best Foreign Language film in 1999, Special Award of the Slovak Television Credits' Union and the Literary Fund **IGRIC 2000** for editing and photography

PAPER HEADS (*Papierové hlavy*) - 1995

Directed by: Dušan Hanák

Febiofest Award for Best Documentary in Olomouc 1997, Grand Prix of the II. Festival of Film Cubs in Banská Bystrica, Special Jury Award at Karlovy Vary Film Festival 1996; **TRILOBIT 96** - FITES, KRISTIAN Award for Best Documentary; **GOLDEN SPIRE 1997** Grand Prix for Best Documentary at the **Golden Gate Competition**, San Francisco, USA.



THE ANGEL OF MERCY (*Anjel milosrdenstva*) - 1994

Directed by: Miloslav Luther

The Slovak Film Association and the Slovak Literary Fund Award for production and photography, Slovak Film Critics Award, Festival Award at the 2nd Balaton Festival in Keszthely, Hungary 1994, **Prix Europa 1994** - award for Best

European Dramatic Program of the year awarded by the European Council Berlin; Award for Best Artistic Performance MAGNOLIA at TVF Shanghai, Slovak nomination for the **Academy Award** for Best Foreign Language film in 1994.



SITTING ON A BRANCH AND I AM FINE (*Sedím na konári a je mi dobre*) - 1989

Directed by: Juraj Jakubisko

Le Prix du Jury and **Alsace Media de Strassbourg** Award - France, Honorary Recognition RAI II. At IFF Venetia, Grand Prix at IFF Moscow, Martin Frič FFP Award, Slovak Literary Fund Award for editing - Patrik Pašš

FRANKENSTEIN'S AUNT (*Frankensteinova Teta*) - 1987

Directed by: Juraj Jakubisko

Nomination for the Best Film at International Fantasy Film Festival - Porto 1988

PERINBABA - 1985

Directed by: Juraj Jakubisko

Film Center Award at IFF in Venetia, Young Viewers Award at IFF Jeune public Lyon, Grand Prix UNICEF, Audience Award for Best film at FEST'86 Belgrade festival, Honorary Recognition and a Plaque RAI II. at IFF Venetia, The Jury Award at Cine de GION Festival, Special Jury Award at the Children Film Festival Gottwaldov, Grand Prix at the Rimousky Festival, Canada, Award for artistic arrangement at the FČSF Mariánské Lázně 1986. Paľo Bielik Award 1986, Special Award at the 1st International Presentation of films for children and juveniles in Buenos Aires Mare del Plata 1987



THE MILLENNIAL BEE (*Tisícročná včela*) - 1983

Directed by: Juraj Jakubisko

The Catholic Film Center Award at the International Film Festival in Venetia 1983, Golden Phenix at the International Film Festival in Venetia 1983, The Federation of Critics Award, Best Film Award at IFF in Seville, UNICEF Award in Belgrade, The Czechoslovak Journalists Award, Plzeň Festival Award, Czechoslovak Film Critics Award 1983, Winner of the enquiry about the best film of the 80', Prague, Czechoslovakia, Czechoslovak nomination for the **Academy Award - Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences** for Best Foreign Language film in 1984.

NICKY'S FAMILY

U.S. Awards

Audience Award - Best Documentary Jewish Arts & Film Festival of Fairfield County 2013

Audience Award – Best Documentary Dayton Jewish International Film Festival 2013

Audience Award – Best Film Three Rivers Film Festival 2012

Audience Award – Best Film Scottsdale International Film Festival 2012

Audience Award – Best Documentary Pittsburgh Jewish Film Festival 2012

Audience Award – Best Film Rockland County Jewish Film Festival 2012

Best of the Fest – Documentary Hartford Jewish Film Festival 2012

Audience Choice Award - Best Documentary AJC Seattle Jewish Film Festival 2012

Audience Award – Best Film Houston Jewish Film Festival 2012

Audience Award – Best Film Charlotte Jewish Film Festival 2012

Audience Choice Award - Best Documentary Denver Jewish Film Festival 2012

Audience Award - Best Documentary Feature Atlanta Jewish Film Festival 2012

Audience Award - Best Documentary Feature Sedona International Film Festival 2012

Audience Award – Best Documentary Palm Beach Jewish Film Festival 2011

International Awards

Audience Award – Best Film 10th European Film Awards 2013, Argentina

Grand Prix Winner for Best Film XVII International TV Festival Bar, Montenegro

FIAT/IFTA Archive Achievement Award for Best Use of Archive

British Film Institute 2012, United Kingdom

Winner – SIGNIS Award Prix Italia 2012, Italy

Winner – Best Director Award MECEFF Festival 2012, Romania

Onion Seed Award - Best Film for Children and Youth

MakeDox Creative Documentary Festival 2012, Macedonia

Winner – Grand Prix Nine Gates Film Festival 2012, Czech Republic

Winner – Grand Prix 52nd Zlin Youth Film Festival 2012, Czech Republic

Audience Award - Best Documentary 6th Zagreb Jewish Film Festival 2012, Croatia

Winner – Best Screenplay Award Slovak Literary Union 2012, Slovak Republic

Slovak Film Critic's Award - Best Documentary Film 2012, Slovak Republic

Audience Award - Best Documentary UK Jewish Film Festival 2011, United Kingdom

David Camera Award for Best Music Warsaw Jewish Film Festival 2011, Poland

Audience Award - Best Documentary Montreal World Film Festival 2011, Canada

Winner - Forum for the Preservation of Audio-Visual Memory Award

Jerusalem Film Festival 2011, Israel

Audience Award Karlovy Vary International Film Festival 2011, Czech Republic

Winner - Prize of the Mayor of Piestany IFF Cinematik, Slovak Republic

Winner - Prize of Oty Hofman for Best Film

Winner - Special Jury Prize for Film with the Most Impressive Moral Accent

Children's Film Festival of Ota Hofman, Czech Republic

Nicky's Family thank their hero

By Kari Rosenberg - Thursday 24th November 2011



He doesn't like to talk about it much, having kept quiet about his remarkable mission for more than half a century. But to those whose lives he saved - and to many more the world over - Sir Nicholas Winton is nothing short of a legend.

Dubbed "Britain's Schindler" by Tony Blair, Winton, now 102 years old, was the brains and brawn behind the Kindertransport. A feature-length film has now been made about his story and Sir Nicolas attended the Nicky's Family UK

premier at the Tricycle Theatre last week along with Esther Rantzen, as part of the UK Jewish Film Festival.

Saving 669 children in the first six months of 1939, he ran his rescue operation between a hotel room in downtown Prague and a house in Hampstead Heath before the start of the war forced the abrupt end of the programme.

The part-dramatisation, part-documentary film - peppered with old black and white footage, photo album head-shots and dramatic re-enactments, cutting back to the modern day with those who know him telling their stories - Nicky's Family is an unflinching emotional tale of tragedy, optimism and despair, of one man's defiance against the odds, from whom many could learn from.

Recounted in part by those children he rescued - now in their 70s and 80s - it is up for consideration by BAFTA members as a possible contender for best documentary. And for good reason.

While it goes without saying that many of the stories of tragedy and hope will provoke a tear, the film has a greater message: anything is possible. This is an ethos Sir Nicholas held on to, and one the grandchildren of his saved "children" now live by.

So many of his children were able to share their stories for the film, thanks in part to Ester Rantzen, who in 1988, on her BBC1 show *That's Life*, contacted many of "Nicky's children" without his knowledge, soon after the story of his remarkable mission came to light. For 50 years he told no one of the transports he had helped organise from Prague across Nazi Germany to London.

The "Children" recount happy memories before the war - walking along promenades, attending the theatre - whereas others remember the sinister beginnings of anti-Semitic behaviour. Malka Sternberg remembers an old school friend slapping her round the face,

"from left to right, left to right" because her mother "told her to", while another "child" Kurt Storm reminisces: "We had a good life, until the Nazis took over."

The film shows historical footage of Nazi marches, of children forced to sing allegiance to the Third Reich and of Czechoslovakians who initially mobilised to defend their homeland. The "humiliation" of the 1938 Munich Agreement is also documented, including the reluctance of Western democracies to confront Hitler in the hope of avoiding war. But, moreover, the film focuses on personal stories and the challenges of Sir Nicholas' mission than a day-by-day chronology of the conflict.

Joseph Ginat, a rescued "child" who is now an engineer, recalls: "It all happened so suddenly." Amos Ben Ron, also rescued, remembers the determination of the Czech people to fight. Vera Gissing, meanwhile, says she gave her best shoes to a "poor refugee with bare feet" and recounts her mother's kind words: "You did the right thing, little girl."

Having visited refugee camps outside Prague, Sir Nicholas decided to help children secure British permits in the same way those from other countries had been rescued by kindertransports. The idea came about when a close friend and colleague, who he was due to go skiing with, called to cancel their trip to remain in Czechoslovakia to help those threatened by the Germans.

Sir Nicholas joined his friend. Although it wasn't easy - receiving a rebuff from the American embassy - he was finally granted permission to bring children into the UK, providing he could find them families: As the man himself puts it: "The rest of the world closed its eyes, its ears, its hearts and its gates."

Sir Nicholas organised a total of eight trains from Prague to London and found foster families for the refugees. A ninth transport - the largest, carrying 250 children - was prevented from leaving due to the outbreak of war. None of these children are believed to have survived. The whereabouts of many of the remaining 669 "children" who did make it are still unknown.

The stories of those he rescued - the families of whom have grown to around 5,700 people - are touching and moving, with the dramatisations effective, poignant and subtle, alongside the narration. Informative, historic and, at times, even amusing, Nicky's Family documents not only the tales of horror and despair but the happy times too - like one man's first taste of fish and chips.

The overall feeling is one of pride: of one man's success, of human strength, kindness and selflessness. And how, more than half-a-century later, gratitude for Nicky's actions has gone on to inspire the good deeds of so many. And Sir Nicholas himself is still going strong, often talking to children about his life. As the Dalai Lama eloquently said of Sir Nicholas: "We must carry his spirit, generation to generation."

http://www.totallyjewish.com/entertainment/features_and_reviews/?content_id=17343