

Canadian documentary about the Holocaust experiences a renaissance

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When organizers of the new Stratford Festival Forum contacted Irene Lilienheim Angelico about including her 1985 international award-winning documentary about the Holocaust, *Dark Lullabies*, in the lineup she was naturally quite excited.

The Forum, considered a festival within a festival, offered a variety of riffs on themes running through the playbill and opened the door to lively discussions on a number of topics that continue to inspire artists working in various media. In the case of *Dark Lullabies*, they wanted to show the film and have Angelico take part in a discussion with the audience afterwards.

"We never expected to have this kind of comeback," Angelico

said, a child of survivors who directed the film with her husband Abbey Jack Neidik. "But that call from Stratford presented us with a nice opportunity. So we looked at the old Beta version to check on the quality. We thought it looked good. But the National Film Board went ahead and remastered it for us."

Having grown up in the shadow of the Holocaust, Angelico conducted interviews with survivors and their children in Montreal and Israel. She also travelled to Germany to meet with both contemporaries and some not-so-nice people. "Yes, I met with neo-Nazis," she said. "It is sad to see that 28 years later the hatred and intolerance these individuals possessed still permeate our society. The issues still remain relevant."

The winner of six international awards, the film will be screened

to commemorate International Holocaust Remembrance Day on January 27 to January 30 at the Cinema du Parc in Montreal (3575 avenue du Parc) at 7 p.m. each night. Angelico and Neidik will take part in a question and answer period after the first screening.

Dark Lullabies was screened by special invitation at the 36th Berlin Film Festival. In 1989 it was selected as one of the 50 greatest documentaries of all time at the International Salute to the Documentary. After its Toronto premiere at the Bloor Theatre, author Margaret Lawrence called it "one of the most moving and powerful documentaries I have ever seen."

Angelico notes that the film has been shown all over the world. "The United States government even bought copies and used it for the teaching of genocides at



Irene Lilienheim Angelico with husband, Abbey Jack Neidik

military colleges," she said. "Now that it has been re-released we are getting many new invitations."

The 82-minute film is available for purchase or rental on DCP, Blu-ray and DVD.

For more information, go to

www.dliproductions.ca. You can see the trailer at tinyurl.com/DarkLullabiesTrailer