

## A FILM UNFINISHED - For Discussion (Ages 17+)

### SYNOPSIS

A documentary about an unfinished film which portrays the people behind and before the camera in the Warsaw Ghetto, exposing the extent of the cinematic manipulation and challenging how we look at historic images. Contains some graphic images.

### PRE-VIEWING

1. Watch this interview with the filmmaker Yael Hersonski.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GzJHxPTXZGQ>

- What do you find interesting about her comments?
- What do you think she means by becoming 'ethical viewers'?

2. Watch this 18 minute clip from the original Nazi propaganda film and read the article alongside it.

[http://www.ushmm.org/online/film/display/detail.php?file\\_num=1645](http://www.ushmm.org/online/film/display/detail.php?file_num=1645)

Make a note of questions you would like to ask about this or the history of the Warsaw Ghetto. With others in your group, try to find answers to these questions. Your facilitator will direct you to some useful websites.

3. From the trailer, the DVD cover and what you've seen and read so far, what are your expectations of this film?

### DURING VIEWING

Try to think about these questions as you watch:

1. How does the juxtaposition of archive footage and different types of testimony impact on the viewer?
2. What impression of the Warsaw Ghetto does the original film made by the Nazis aim to communicate?
3. How do the 'out-takes' reveal the truth behind this film?
4. The original footage did not have a soundtrack. How does the music impact on the viewer?

### AFTER VIEWING

1. Read this interview with filmmaker Yael Hersonski.

How do her comments connect to what you saw in the film?

<http://www.pbs.org/newshour/art/conversation-director-yael-hersonski-on-a-film-unfinished/>

2. Read this article about the *A Film Unfinished*:

[http://www.nytimes.com/2010/08/18/movies/18unfinished.html?\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2010/08/18/movies/18unfinished.html?_r=0)

Identify two or three key points that have deepened your reflections on this film in particular or on your ideas about representing the Holocaust on film.

3. *A Film Unfinished* highlights the importance of propaganda films for the Nazis. One of the best-known film directors in support of the Nazi party was Leni Riefenstahl. Follow this link to find out more about her and the role of films to promote the Nazi message.

<http://www.ushmm.org/wlc/en/article.php?ModuleId=10007410>