

# KINO LORBER

## FILMMAKERS FOR THE PROSECUTION

**The Thrilling Story of How Motion Pictures Were Used  
to Convict the Nazis at the First Nuremberg Trial**

Directed by Jean-Christophe Klotz

Adapted from Sandra Schulberg's Monograph "*Filmmakers for the Prosecution*"

Produced by Céline Nusse, Paul Rozenberg, and Sandra Schulberg  
with the support of ARTE and La Fondation pour la Mémoire de la Shoah



USA /France | 2022 | 60 min | In English and French with English Subtitles

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## **SYNOPSIS**

Adapted from Sandra Schulberg's monograph, *Filmmakers for the Prosecution* retraces the thrilling hunt for film evidence used to convict the Nazis at the first Nuremberg trial. The searchers were two sons of Hollywood – brothers Budd and Stuart Schulberg – serving under the command of OSS film chief John Ford. The motion pictures they presented in the courtroom became part of the official record and shape our understanding of the Holocaust to this day. Seventy-five years after the trial, French journalist and filmmaker Jean-Christophe Klotz returns to the German salt mines where films lay burning, uncovers never-before-seen footage, and interviews key figures to unravel why the resulting film about the trial – *Nuremberg: Its Lesson for Today* by Stuart Schulberg – was intentionally buried by the U.S. Department of War. Klotz's riveting film also fills in the gaps of how these groundbreaking materials were sourced, and poses still-pertinent questions about the power of film to write history.

## **SHORT SYNOPSIS**

Adapted from a monograph by Sandra Schulberg, *Filmmakers for the Prosecution* retraces the hunt by brothers Budd and Stuart Schulberg for film evidence used to convict the Nazis at the first Nuremberg trial. Seventy-five years later, Jean-Christophe Klotz uncovers never-before-seen footage and interviews key figures to unravel why the resulting film about the trial was intentionally suppressed by the U.S. government.

## ***ABOUT FILMMAKERS FOR THE PROSECUTION***

This is the amazing true story of the OSS officers who tracked down the films used to convict the Nazis, a startling example of the power of the moving image to change hearts and minds and to indelibly shape our collective memory. It features newly-discovered archival footage about their search and their presentation of the films as evidence in a court of law — a historical first — at the International Military Tribunal in Nuremberg, the first of 13 Nuremberg trials.

The story is carried by Eli Rosenbaum, who served for 30 years in the Office of Special Investigations of the U.S. Department of Justice, pursuing Nazis in the U.S. and extraditing them to stand trial in Germany. In June, U.S. Attorney General Merrick B. Garland named Mr. Rosenbaum Counselor for War Crimes Accountability with the mandate “to pursue law enforcement accountability for grave crimes committed in the wake of Russia’s February 2022 invasion of Ukraine.” As Rosenbaum explains in the film, the “Nuremberg principles” underlie all modern attempts to prosecute crimes against humanity and crimes against the peace.

*Filmmakers for the Prosecution* features jaw-dropping first-hand accounts by Budd Schulberg, head of the OSS search team; Niklas Frank, son of Nuremberg defendant Hans Frank; and French jurist Yves Beigbeder, assistant to French judge Henri Donnedieu de Vabres; fascinating reveals by scholars Sylvie Lindeperg, Axel Fischer, Alexander Zöller, and Stuart Leibman; and illuminating comments from Sandra Schulberg about the decision to suppress the American film about the Nuremberg trial as the Cold War began.

Our collective memory of the Nazi period is founded on the evidence collected by the Schulbergs and shown during the first Nuremberg trial. The images they presented in the courtroom are famous, but the story of the Schulbergs’ search has not been told on film until now. The inside story of their extraordinary mission comes to life through never-before-seen footage of the Schulbergs and through their private letters. The importance of their work is put in context by Eli Rosenbaum, an expert on the Nuremberg principles, who is now the U.S. Department of Justice Counselor for War Crimes Accountability in Ukraine.

Seventy-five years after the trial, French journalist and filmmaker Jean-Christophe Klotz returns to the German salt mines where Budd Schulberg discovered film footage still burning and recreates the finding of secret caches described by both the brothers. By interviewing key surviving figures in the story he then unravels the mystery behind why the resulting film about the trial — *Nuremberg: Its Lesson for Today* (1948) — was intentionally buried by the U.S. Department of War. Klotz’s riveting film also fills in the gaps of how these groundbreaking materials were sourced, and poses still-pertinent and profound questions about the process of using film to write history.

*Filmmakers for the Prosecution* is adapted from Sandra Schulberg’s eponymous monograph which documents her years of research into the OSS film unit’s work for the Nuremberg trial. Daughter of Stuart and niece of

Budd, she produced the film with French partners Celine Nusse and Paul Rozenberg. The film's European version premiered at the 2022 New York Jewish Film Festival as *The Lost Film of Nuremberg*. Since then, this new American version has been produced by Sandra Schulberg and Josh Waletzky with new narration by Jessica DiSalvo. Budd Schulberg's son Benn Schulberg reads excerpts from his father's account; and Stuart Schulberg's son KC Schulberg reads excerpts from his father's letters.

### ***MEMBERS OF THE OSS TEAM***

The OSS team sent to Germany was led by Navy Commander Ray Kellogg and was officially called the OSS Field Photographic Branch/War Crimes Unit. Kellogg was also identified in certain documents as Chief, Photo Evidence Section, Office of Chief of Counsel (the office of U.S. Supreme Court Justice Robert H. Jackson, acting as the lead American prosecutor). Besides Budd & Stuart, it included Navy editors Bob Parrish, Robert Webb, Joe Zigman (who later edited Nuremberg with Stuart), writer Daniel Fuchs, and Russian speakers Magda Pollaczek Tisza and Susan Shestopel.

They took on German editors Walter Rode & Conrad ("Kurt") von Molo as informants, whose assistance Budd documented, along with that of Leni Riefenstahl. German assistant cutter Lieselotte Balte Ashkins was hired by Ray Kellogg in Berlin and accompanied the team to Nuremberg to help with the final editing of the films they presented in the courtroom, Nazi Concentration Camps and The Nazi Plan.

As director Jean-Christophe Klotz discovered, none of them meticulously documented their work on the Nuremberg trial so it proved much more difficult to tell their stories.

## **ABOUT NUREMBERG: ITS LESSON FOR TODAY (1948)**

One of the greatest courtroom dramas in history, *Nuremberg: Its Lesson For Today* shows how the international prosecutors built their case against the top Nazi war criminals using the Nazis' own films and records. The trial established the "Nuremberg principles," laying the foundation for all subsequent trials for crimes against the peace, war crimes, and crimes against humanity.

This is the official U.S. government's film about the trial, made for the War Department & U.S. Military Government by Stuart Schulberg, a veteran of John Ford's OSS War Crimes film team. Though it was distributed in Germany in 1948 and 1949 as part of the U.S. denazification campaign, its release to American theaters and other countries was canceled due to political concerns.

Over the years, the original picture's negative and sound elements were lost or destroyed. Filmmakers Sandra Schulberg and Josh Waletzky created a new 35mm negative (made from the German Bundesarchiv's best "lavender print") and reconstructed the soundtrack using original sound from the trial.

## **CRITICAL PRAISE FOR NUREMBERG: ITS LESSON FOR TODAY**

**"HAUNTING AND VIVID. What this documentary shows is how a vital and indispensable principle of humanity was restored."**

– A.O. Scott, *The New York Times*

**"MESMERIZING. *Nuremberg* couldn't be more of the moment. Something of a minor miracle."**

– Ann Hornaday, *The Washington Post*

**"The reason it has the power to shock, appall and infuriate is because of its truth."**

– Stuart Klawans, *The Nation*

**"RIVETING. More powerful than any fictional courtroom drama could hope to be."**

– Bilge Ebiri, *New York Magazine*

**"POWERFUL. A definitive rebuke to all Holocaust deniers."**

– Lou Lumenick, *The New York Post*

**"AN EYE-OPENING FIND. Excerpts from the Nazis' own films of their dirty work, used as evidence against them, will shock even the most jaded History Channel addict."**

– David Fear, *TIME OUT New York*

**"COMPACT AND DEVASTATING.... an intensely riveting 78-minute portrait [of] one of the 20th century's first and biggest media spectacles."**

– Andrew O'Hehir, *Salon*

## FILMMAKERS' BIOGRAPHIES

### **Jean-Christophe Klotz (Director)**

A journalist and war correspondent by training, Jean-Christophe Klotz's reporting took him to Rwanda to document the genocide and its aftermath in three films, *Kigali, des images contre un massacre* (2006), *Lignes de front* (2009) and *Retour a Kigali* (2019). *Mogadishu in Agony* is his portrait of the Somali capital ravaged by civil war and famine. He also makes films about American society and culture, notably *The Routes of Terror about 9/11*; *The Race for Black Gold*, about the Sino-US oil rivalry; and *John Ford, The Man Who Invented America*. His latest film is a portrait of Bret Easton Ellis called *Tueur, trader et psychopathe - L'Amérique de Bret Easton Ellis*.

### **Sandra Schulberg (Co-Producer, Author of “Filmmakers for the Prosecution” monograph)**

After restoring *Nuremberg: Its Lesson for Today*, Sandra Schulberg served as media consultant to Benjamin Ferencz, the last surviving Nuremberg prosecutor (now 102), and helped develop a film about him, *Prosecuting Evil*, by Barry Avrich. Schulberg is now president of IndieCollect, a non-profit organization whose mission is to rescue, restore, and reactivate extraordinary American independent films. IndieCollect has archived thousands of film negatives since 2013 and restored nearly 70 of them, including *F.T.A.* produced by and starring Jane Fonda, *Girls Town*, *Nationtime*, *Cane River*, *Jazz on a Summer's Day*, *Thank You and Good Night*, *Shadow Magic*, *Thousand Pieces of Gold*, *Tokyo Pop*, *The War At Home*. Before turning to restoration, Schulberg was a producer and advocate for “Off-Hollywood” filmmakers, founding the IFP in 1978-79 and co-founding First Run Features in 1980. Her movie credits include *Waiting for the Moon*, winner of the Sundance Grand Prize, and the Oscar-nominated *Quills*.

## **PRODUCTION CREDITS**

*Filmmakers for the Prosecution* was adapted by Jean-Christophe Klotz from Sandra Schulberg's eponymous monograph published in 2014. Schulberg co-produced the new film with French partners Céline Nusse and Paul Rozenberg with support from ARTE and the Mémorial de la Shoah. ARTE broadcast French & German versions in January 2021 to great acclaim and it has since won numerous awards in France. The American version features English narration by Jessica DiSalvo. KC Schulberg reads the letters of his father, Stuart Schulberg. Benn Schulberg reads text by his father, Budd Schulberg. The American soundtrack was created by Sandra Schulberg & Josh Waletzky with sound recording & editing by John Bowen.

## **TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS**

**Countries:** USA /France

**Year:** 2022

**Runtime:** 60 min

**Color:** Color & B&W

**Aspect Ratio:** 16:9

**Language:** In English and French with English Subtitles.

DIRECTED BY JEAN-CHRISTOPHE KLOTZ

ADAPTED FROM SANDRA SCHULBERG'S ARTICLE:

“FILMMAKERS FOR THE PROSECUTION.”

PRODUCED BY CÉLINE NUSSE, PAUL ROZENBERG, AND SANDRA SCHULBERG WITH THE  
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