

THE ABSENCE

LA AUSENCIA

Dearest Educators,

It is an honor to be able to contribute to the learnings of The Holocaust to reach your students through your teachings. Your dedication reflects your great sensitivity and knowledge. The way it resembles in the young minds may shape their views and understanding of world events, and human behavior - as well as their own.

The Absence - La Ausencia was an awakening to comprehend what occurred, initially to my mother, father, their family, their friends, and furthermore to all the Survivors that emigrated to Latin-America, Venezuela, after The Holocaust. Their silenced pain was intriguing, and led to the search. A group of young professionals in the arts, got together in this quest, in 1987, and embarked in making this film, pro-bono. For the first time, Survivors opened their wounds to tell the story, interviewed in their homes by 50 college students. The Yad Vashem Venezuelan Committee promoted the project. In some way, all the Community participated in the artistical scenes, including hundreds of children of different schools and ethnicities. After 8 years, in 1995, a 4 hour film, featuring 30 Survivors, and a message to Humankind, was premiered, with a Musical Tribute to the Survivors, by the singers and artists of the film.

Since then, the film made its way to the United States. In 2012 the United Nations distributed a 1 hour version DVD (without graphic footage) - and Study Guide, to 140 countries.

At the same time, Rositta Kenigsberg, Dr. Miriam Klein Kassenoff, and Dr. Michael Berenbaum became the guides of this film, as Consultants, and great friends.

Thousands of DVD's of the short versions of the film have been given throughout a decade to teachers attending the University of Miami Holocaust Teacher Institute - Director Miriam Klein Kassenoff, as well as in the Students Awareness Day - Holocaust Documentation and Education Center - President - Rositta Kenigsberg.

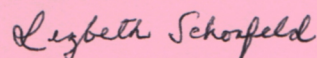
Dr. Miriam Klein Kassenoff's 35 minute Edition, with Revisions and Additions of Dr. Michael Berenbaum, together with the Study Guide, through the Outreach Program performed by Rositta Kenigsberg, is an Educational Resource for the Classroom.

The endorsement in the Letter of Recommendation of Dr. Alberto Carvalho, Superintendent of Schools MDCPS, is of immense support, as he also attended the Premiere in Miami Florida together with many distinguished guests in the field of Education.

The honorable contribution of the Gonda Family, including Cheryl Zoller, has made the distribution of this educational tool possible.

Our gratitude in the name of all the Survivors, Makers, Consultants and Contributors of this film, goes to you, the Educators. In your hands, The Absence - La Ausencia will have the opportunity to inspire the new generations to perceive and to be thoughtful, better, wiser - in their choices - as they build a collective conscience in their community, and in the family of nations.

Truly yours,



The Absence - La Ausencia llc.

Lizbeth Schonfeld