

Journey Into War

WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY MICHAŁ WNUK CINEMATOGRAPHY BY MICHAŁ POPIEL-MACHNICKI PRODUCER: MAGDALENA KAMIŃSKA / CO-PRODUCER: ANTJE BOEHMERT AGFA1939.COM

AGFA 1939 / Journey Into War

Young Polish filmmaker Michał Wnuk decides to explore the depths of his family's history when he finds a box of 120 photographs and 2 reels of Agfa 16mm film. The photographs document a striking perspective of World War II, however, they're considered taboo in his family as his grandfather, Alois Kunsdorf, served in the Wehrmacht - a treacherous thing in the eyes of his fellow countrymen. We follow Michał as he gets to see the war through his grandfather's eyes for the first time; the intriguing photographs document and set his path - from the destruction of Warsaw, the Eastern Front, to the Holocaust, delving further into the story, these touching images provoke Michał to ask his family uncomfortable and distressing questions.

But he could never expect the story that would unravel before his eyes - the box didn't belong to his grandfather; it belonged to his great-uncle Eligiusz Szczepanski. Uncle Elek was an anti-German fighter and a decorated war hero; he established an underground operation that captured and obtained photographs of unknowing German soldiers, with a view to using them as proof of war crimes, but by 1945 his work was cut short.

Michał embarks on a mission to finish what Elek started, and to uncover the full story behind the Agfa box and the short films. He travels back and forth between Poland and Germany, meeting with eyewitnesses and talking to historians in an attempt to resolve his uncle's incomplete story. His journey takes him all the way back to the summer of 1939, and the remaining rolls of film, that haven't seen the light of day since first capturing images of a time now far in the past. Michał follows the clues left behind to discover the compelling tale behind these long forgotten images.

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TECHNICAL INFO

RUNNING TIME: 52' / SHOOTING FORMAT: HD / SOUND: 5.1/STEREO LANGUAGE: POLISH, ENGLISH, GERMAN / SUBTITLES: ENGLISH AVAILABLE ON: DCP, HD CAM, BLU RAY, DVD / RELEASE 2015

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