



“You could not
invent Ruth
Gruber...not
even in a movie.”

Richard Holbrooke

Special Envoy to
Afghanistan and Pakistan



Ahead of Time

Ruth Gruber didn't just report the news...she made it!

A Film by Bob Richman
Produced by Zeva Oelbaum

EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS PATTI KENNER, DORIS SCHECHTER, DENISE BENMOSCHE, HENRY JARECKI MD
ARCHIVAL FOOTAGE PRODUCERS JUDY ALEY, LEWANNE JONES PRODUCTION SOUND EDWARD O'CONNOR
MOTION GRAPHICS BRIAN OAKES PRODUCTION DESIGNER ZEVA OELBAUM MUSIC BY TED REICHMAN
ADDITIONAL MUSIC REUBEN CHESS & DAVID DAWDA EDITED BY SABINE KRAYENBÜHL
PRODUCED BY ZEVA OELBAUM DIRECTED AND PHOTOGRAPHED BY BOB RICHMAN
USA, 2009, COLOR, 73 MINUTES

On October 19, 2010,

The Norman Mailer Center

will award 99 year-old Ruth Gruber their

Distinguished Humanitarian and Journalism Prize

A tiny sampling of her other awards include:

National Jewish Book Awards

Lifetime Achievement Award 2010

Overseas Press Club

Lifetime Achievement Award 2009

National Coalition Against Censorship

Lifetime Achievement Award 2008

Hebrew Union College

Honorary Doctorate

University of Wisconsin

Honorary Doctorate

Institute of International Education

Ruth Gruber Chair for the Scholar Rescue Fund

Film Synopses

SHORT SYNOPSIS

With her love of adventure and fearlessness, Ruth Gruber defied tradition from the moment she became the world's youngest PhD at the age of 20 in 1931. *Ahead of Time* tells the remarkable journey of 96 year-old Gruber, and is the directorial debut of noted cinematographer Bob Richman (*The September Issue*, *My Architect*, and *An Inconvenient Truth*). Gruber continued to make history throughout her trail-blazing career by becoming the first journalist to enter the Soviet Arctic in 1935 and escorting 1000 Holocaust refugees from Naples to New York in a secret war-time mission in 1944. She covered the heart wrenching ordeal of the refugees aboard the ship Exodus 1947 with photographs that helped change the world.

DETAILED SYNOPSIS

Ahead of Time is a feature-length documentary film on the remarkable life of 97-year-old Ruth Gruber. Born in Brooklyn in 1911, Ruth became the youngest PhD in the world at age 20. As a student in Germany in 1931, she attended a Hitler rally observing first-hand the rising tide of Nazism. Ruth became a foreign correspondent and photojournalist at age 24. A feminist before feminism, Ruth was the first journalist to enter the Soviet Arctic in 1935. She traveled to Alaska as a member of the Roosevelt administration in 1941, where she was the first civilian on the Alaska Highway.

Ruth's unique perspective of the events surrounding WWII is a result of her involvement in many of those historical moments. She was chosen by the Roosevelt administration to escort 1000 Holocaust refugees from Naples to New York in a secret wartime mission in 1944. As a journalist, she accompanied leaders to the Middle East where they studied the problems of displaced persons and Palestine. Ruth covered the Nuremberg trials in 1946 and her photos of the ship Exodus 1947 were published in *Life Magazine* and around the world. With her love of adventure, fearlessness and powerful intellect, Ruth defied tradition and in the process, emerged as the eyes and conscience of the world. Today, Ruth still has the moxie and sharp wit that propelled her career, and the film interweaves vérité footage with interviews and archival material.



Bios

Bob Richman, Director

Bob Richman was born in Brooklyn, New York and received a BA in psychology from SUNY at Buffalo. He began his career in film as a cinematographer working with the verite pioneers Albert and David Maysles.

Richman recently won the Grand Jury prize at the Sundance Film Festival for Best Cinematography for *The September Issue*. His other credits as DP/cinematographer include Academy Award winner *An Inconvenient Truth*, Academy Award nominee *My Architect*, *Metallica:Some Kind of Monster*, and *Paradise Lost:The Robin Hood Hills Child Murders*. Richman was nominated for a Prime Time Emmy for *Paradise Lost*.

Ahead of Time is Richman's first film as a director.



Zeva Oelbaum, Producer

Zeva Oelbaum is an award winning producer and the founder of Reel Inheritance Films. In addition to producing Ahead of Time, she directed and produced a short film on Ruth Gruber which is being shown at the International Center of Photography through August 28th in conjunction with Ruth's photography exhibition. She was Executive Producer of Rene and I, a documentary film on twins Irene Hizme and Rene Slotkin who survived Josef Mengele at Auschwitz.

Sabine Krayenbuehl, Editor

Sabine Krayenbuehl is an award winning documentary film editor. She was nominated by the American Cinema Editors for an Eddie Award for *My Architect*. Her other documentary projects include *Mad Hot Ballroom* and *The Bridge*. Her most recent project, *Picasso and Braque Go To The Movies*, premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival in Fall 2008.

Ruth Gruber, Subject

Ruth Gruber is a life long writer, journalist, photojournalist and humanitarian. She has written 19 books to date and recently accepted a Lifetime Achievement Award at the Overseas Press Club. Her book, *Haven*, which told her story of escorting Holocaust refugees to America was made into a television mini-series in 2001, starring Natasha Richardson.



The Filmmakers

Directed and Photographed By Bob Richman
Produced By Zeva Oelbaum
Editor Sabin Krayenbuhl
Production Design Zeva Oelbaum
Music Composer Ted Reichman
Animation Brian Oakes
Executive Producers Patti Kenner, Doris Schechter and Denise Benmosche

Film Subjects (In order of appearance)

Ruth Gruber

Subject, filmed in her NYC apartment

Louisa Herz Leopold

Daughter of Ruth's host family in Cologne, filmed in NJ

Dava Sobel

Ruth's Niece, filmed in front of Ruth's childhood home in Brooklyn

Lee Taylor

Helen Reid's great-granddaughter, filmed in Ruth's apartment

Harold M. Ickes

Son of Harold L. Ickes, Secretary of the Interior, filmed in Washington, DC and New York City

Temple Members

Pelham Jewish Center, filmed in Pelham, Westchester, NY

Manya Hartmayer Breuer

Holocaust survivor who came to America aboard the Henry Gibbins in 1944, filmed in LA

PBS news team

They interview Ruth for a television special on the birth of Israel that aired in May 2008, filmed in Ruth's apartment

Tom Segev

Israeli journalist and author, filmed in Jerusalem

Ike Aronowitz

Captain of the ship Exodus 1947, filmed in Haifa

Mordechai Rossman

Leader of the refugees aboard the Runnymede Park, filmed in Haifa

Voiceovers and Translation

Eli Wallach

Mordechai Rossman

Therese Plummer

Young Ruth

Jody Shelton

Ruth's brother, Harry

About the Production

PRODUCTION COMPANY CREDITS: Reel Inheritance Films

FILMING LOCATIONS: New York City, Brooklyn, Westchester, Los Angeles, Washington D.C., Haifa, and Jerusalem

WORLD PREMIERE: Toronto International Film Festival, 2009

MPAA RATING: Not rated

GENRE: Documentary

LANGUAGE(S): English, Hebrew

SUBTITLES: Hebrew subtitled in English

RUNNING TIME INCLUDING CREDITS: TRT- 73 minutes

PRESENTATION FORMAT: HDCAM

SCREENING FORMATS: HDCAMsr, HDCAM

ASPECT RATIO: 16:9

SOUND FORMAT: LTRT and 5.1

SCREENERS: DVD

FRAME RATE: 1080i@23.98

