

AVENUE
OF THE
GIANTS



“I love the way this film intertwines past and present, and tells a story that affects all generations. Holocaust survivors will soon be gone which is just another reason to watch *Avenue of the Giants*. One person can make a difference; a giant! A terrific film.”

—Liam Neeson

PRAISE FOR
AVENUE OF THE
GIANTS

"I've made over 100 films and this is the first that made me cry."

—David Minkowski, Stillking Productions

"...A well-told, well-acted tale about the burden of guilt and how it can damage lives... a life-affirming tale that touches the heart and reminds us of the importance of connection."

—*Piedmont Exedra*

"Soulful, nuanced performances by Lang, Fisher, and the always-exceptional Robin Weigert make the present-day sections of the film seriously poignant and heartwarming....[A] beacon of empathy and inspiration."

—*Marin Magazine*

"Mill Valley Film Festival 2023: 9 Must-See Programs"

—*San Francisco Chronicle*

"When will the human race figure out that all life is precious? Taylor's film is yet another strong reminder of that essential message. Everyone should see this so as not to forget the lessons of the past and to heal from traumatic issues that any teen could experience.."

—*Film Threat*

"...not-so-surprising reveal that the film is based on Herbert Heller, a real-life Holocaust survivor who made outreach to younger generations a major part of his later years, [and] comes across with a true gentle jolt when the film not only extends the reach of his story beyond his own ability to tell it, but clearly honors his belief that how to connect is as important as the connection itself."

—*The Moveable Fest*

"Sometimes movies can move you in ways you never thought possible... [*Avenue of the Giants*] profoundly affected me... a harrowing story of survival."

—Dan Skip Allen

I want to tell you about a movie.

The movie is called *Avenue of the Giants*, and it comes from the heart. It tells a story that felt tremendously relevant when the idea for it surfaced nearly a decade ago. It's even more relevant right now.

I met Herbert Heller in 2014. I was told that as a child he had escaped Auschwitz. For anyone who knows about the history of World War II and the Nazi death camps, a statement like that seems inconceivable. "Nobody escaped Auschwitz," I thought.

But I learned that the trauma of Herbert's experience had, for decades, been kept a secret. This was the starting point for *Avenue of the Giants*. I invited Herbert to speak at my







son's school, and that event showed me that his story — *sharing* his story — could have a tremendous impact across the generations. Herbert was speaking to kids who were the same age that he was when he was taken into the camps by the Nazis, and you could hear a pin drop — with an 88-year-old man talking to 13-year-old boys and girls. It was remarkable. I thought, "This needs to be a film."

After years of hard work, it became one — a powerful film written by Finn Taylor with a heart-piercing screenplay and unforgettable performances from a cast that includes Stephen Lang, Elsie Fisher, Luke David Blumm, and Robin Weigert. We have shown *Avenue of the Giants* to packed houses at film festivals in both the Hamptons and Mill



Valley. It has received standing ovations, and it has prompted thoughtful questions and emotional expressions of gratitude from people in the audience. It is a movie that fosters curiosity, compassion, and healing. As the great poet and essayist Audre Lorde once put it, "I have come to believe over and over again that what is most important to me must be spoken, made verbal and shared, even at the risk of having it bruised or misunderstood." This is a movie about saying it out loud.

As we know, there are people who insist on denying that the Holocaust ever happened. Sharing Herbert Heller's story is a way of confronting that type of ignorance. Given the state of affairs in the world today and a







troubling surge of antisemitism around the globe, we believe that this movie is more important than ever. We see it as a vehicle for promoting empathy and understanding. It's a film that speaks to teens, too, who are grappling with an epidemic of suicide and a widespread mental health crisis. We all suffer, and we all seek a pathway out of suffering. That's what this movie is about.

That's why it exists.

Thank you,
Jeanine Thomas



AWARD
WINNING
CREW

MICHAEL E. GOLDMAN, PRODUCTION DESIGNER:

Nominated for 6 Excellence in Production Design Awards, including *Iron Man* and *Star Trek Into Darkness*.

AGGIE GUERARD RODGERS, COSTUME DESIGNER:

Nominated for an Academy Award for Best Costume Design on *The Color Purple*. She worked as the costume designer on *American Graffiti*, *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* and *The Conversation*.

STILLKING PRODUCTIONS:

They are known for the Prague production of *The Bourne Identity*, *Chronicles of Narnia*, *Casino Royale*, *Mission Impossible – Ghost Protocol*, *Spider Man: Far From Home*, and *Extraction 2*.

MCCALMAN.CO:

A reimagined, full-service creative salon embodying a modern-day spirit of collaboration, conversation, and wild creativity. They are the recipient of the 2023 NAACP Award and have been nominated for the prestigious Cooper Hewitt National Design Awards three years running.

SYNOPSIS

Avenue of the Giants tells the true story of Herbert Heller who kept his miraculous escape from the Auschwitz Birkenau death march a secret for 60 years, even from his family. That is, until he meets Abbey, a young teenager whose own brush with pain and death inspires him to open up as well, leading the two of them to exchange their stories as a meaningful and healing friendship is born.



POSTER



STEPHEN
LANG

ELSIE
FISHER

LUKE DAVID
BLUMM

INSPIRED BY TRUE EVENTS

AVENUE OF THE GIANTS

A JEANINE THOMAS PRODUCTION
WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY FINN TAYLOR

SOMETIMES
THE END OF THE WORLD
IS WHERE
THE STORY BEGINS.



Designed by Wheelhouse Creative
and The Boland Design Co.
Art Direction by McCalman.Co