Mosaic of Victims Film Series [poster]

University of Northern Iowa. Holocaust Remembrance and Education Program.

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Although the Jews were their primary targets, the Nazis and their collaborators also persecuted other groups because of their race, political and ideological convictions, religious beliefs or social behavior. This film series consists of three documentaries with survivor testimony and archival footage, which shed light on the plight of the Roma and Sinti people (Gypsies), homosexuals, and Jehovah’s Witnesses during the Holocaust.

The brown, pink and purple triangles (for Gypsies, homosexuals, and religious dissenters, respectively) were part of the system of identification sewn onto the clothing of prisoners in Nazi concentration camps.

All films will be shown in Seerley Hall 115 at 7 p.m.

April 7
Porraimos: Europe’s Gypsies in the Holocaust
Porraimos is the first American documentary to expose how the pseudo-science of eugenics was used to persecute not only Jews, but also Gypsies. To the Nazis, Gypsies’ dark skin and nomadic ways made them “lives not worthy of life.” Using interviews with Austrian, Czech and German Gypsy survivors (including the Jewish artist who was ordered by Joseph Mengele to paint portraits of Gypsy prisoners at Auschwitz), as well as photographs and films from the Reich Department of Racial Hygiene, this video reveals the oppression of the Gypsies—their registration and segregation, their sterilization, the medical experiments, and their eventual murder. Director: Alexandra Isles.
© The Film Connection. 2001. Running Time: 57 minutes.

April 8
Paragraph 175
Directed by Rob Epstein and Jeffrey Friedman; written (in English, German and French, with English subtitles) by Sharon Wood; UK / Germany / USA co-production. Actor Rupert Everett provides the narration for this disquieting documentary that shines a light on the Third Reich’s vicious persecution of male homosexuals during World War II. The title comes from an arcane, 1871 German statute making sodomy punishable by incarceration (with the ultimate goal to eradicate gays completely). Only a handful of survivors—now frail and withered—remain to recount their traumatic tales in this poignant film.

April 9
Fear Not: Persecution and Resistance of Jehovah’s Witnesses Under the Nazi Regime
This documentary by Stefanie Krug and Fritz Poppenberg combines first-person descriptions of events with historical footage, photos and eye-witness accounts of the persecution and resistance of Jehovah’s Witnesses during the Nazi regime. The film tells about Jehovah’s Witnesses who put the bible’s principles, commandments and prophecies ahead of the Nazi regime laws. Despite terrible persecution men, women and even children belonging to the small religious community refused to Heil Hitler as well as all other salutes, they refused both military service and work in connection with the manufacturing of military goods.

The events are free and open to the public.
Sponsored by the Max and Helen Guernsey Charitable Foundation (Cedar Falls); the UNI College of Humanities and Fine Arts; Department of Sociology, Anthropology & Criminology; and the UNI Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgendered and Ally Union.