



# In Their Name

Written and Directed by  
Peter Hegedus

Soul Vision Films



# ***In Their Name***

## ***Soul Vision Films***

### ***EPK***

#### ***PRINCIPLE CREDITS***

<i>Writer &amp; Director</i>	<i>PETER HEGEDÜS</i>
<i>Producers</i>	<i>PETER HEGEDÜS</i> <i>JACLYN MCLENDON</i> <i>BOBBI-LEA DIONYSIUS</i>
<i>Key Participants</i>	<i>ETHEL DAVIS</i> <i>ÖREGANYA - ZSUZSA HÖLZEL</i> <i>ILANA IVANOVA</i> <i>SARAH HOPE</i> <i>AMELIA PAXMAN</i> <i>GILBERTO ROQUE</i> <i>JEMMA POTGIETER</i> <i>TESS BRADING</i> <i>KIARA KÁLMÁN</i> <i>CHARLOTTE STENT</i>
<i>Cinematographer</i>	<i>ZOLTAN VLADUCZ</i>
<i>Editor</i>	<i>ÁGNES MÓGOR (HSE)</i>
<i>Co-producers</i>	<i>AXEL GRIGOR</i> <i>ZOLTAN VLADUCZ</i>
<i>Script Consultants</i>	<i>STEFAN MOORE</i> <i>REBECCA MCELROY</i> <i>AXEL GRIGOR</i> <i>PAT LAUGHREN</i>
<i>Sound Designers</i>	<i>ALICIA BUTTERWORTH</i> <i>MEL BERTRAM</i>
<i>Assistant Editor</i>	<i>ANDRÁS KÉCZA</i>
<i>Assembly Editors</i>	<i>NU'UTEA ROBILLOT</i> <i>SHIN-YIN JUDY YEH</i>

<i>Camera Operators</i>	<i>SARAH HOPE MIKAEL ROSÉN JEMMA POTGIETER FARAMARZ K-RAHBER</i>
<i>Drone Operator</i>	<i>ROBERTS KLEPIS</i>
<i>Researcher</i>	<i>SARAH HOPE</i>
<i>Production Co-ordinator</i>	<i>ISABELLA HAACK</i>
<i>Production Assistants</i>	<i>EMILIA PATON JENNY QU NU'UTEA ROBILLO</i>
<i>On-line &amp; Colorist</i>	<i>LEVENTE SALMAT</i>
<i>Mastering</i>	<i>SHIN-YEN JUDY YEH</i>
<i>Post Production Assistants</i>	<i>LEVI JOHNS BOBBI-LEA DIONYSIUS</i>
<i>Map Design</i>	<i>NICK SCHOSTAKOWSKI</i>
<i>Australian Marketing Consultant</i>	<i>ANDREW PIKE, RONIN FILMS</i>
<i>Legals</i>	<i>PAUL O'KANE, PAUL &amp; PARTNERS PTY LTD</i>

*INSURANCE THROUGH SURA FILMS AND ENTERTAINMENT PTY LTD  
AWESO INSURANCE THROUGH ORACLE AUSTRALIA*

*The Producers acknowledge the support of Screen Australia through the Producer Equity Program.  
Produced with the assistance from Screen Queensland.  
Produced with the assistance of Griffith Film School, Griffith University.  
Produced with the assistance of Griffith University, Disrupting Violence Beacon  
Produced with the assistance of Focus Fox  
Produced with the assistance of Sun Star Studios*

*27 minutes*

*© Soul Vision Films 2022*

*In Their Name - EPK*

*Page 2.*

# **SYNOPSES**

## ***Short Synopsis:***

In 1941, a young girl and a group of women are photographed in freezing temperatures before their execution. 80 years later an elderly Australian woman and a filmmaker come together to attempt to tell their story.

## ***Longer Synopsis:***

December 1941. A group of women and a 11-year-old girl named Sorella Epstein are photographed as they are ordered to take their clothes off in freezing temperatures. Humiliated and silenced, they are among 3640 Latvian Jewish women and children massacred by Nazi troops and their Latvian collaborators at Skede Beach, Latvia.

Almost 80 years later, there is one woman who is still haunted by this massacre: Ethel Davies, a 90-year-old Jewish Australian who wrote a book about the Latvian Holocaust after finding out that her aunt and cousins were also killed there.

Ethel is now helping Australian-Hungarian filmmaker Peter Hegedus - whose grandmother survived the Nazi concentration camp - to explore the story behind the photo through the production of a dramatized immersive VR360 short film titled Sorella's Story. Peter's plan is to produce Sorella's Story, a short VR360° recreation to reveal the moments that lead up to the massacre. As the story develops, the little girl in the photo, Sorella Epstein, becomes the central character. Sorella, would be the same age as Ethel if she was alive today. If it wasn't for Ethel's parents fleeing Latvia before the war, Ethel could have endured the same fate as Sorella.

Peter has never worked with 360° but he is determined to provide a fresh perspective on the Holocaust. He wants to reach young audiences so that they would never forget what happened. Peter assembles a crew consisting of his Brisbane film students to help him tell the story of the photograph. Taking on the roles of camera operator, sound recordist and editor, the students work alongside Peter to produce this technically challenging story.

After conducting research in Latvia and visiting Skede beach where the massacre happened, the film crew arrive in Budapest to film the recreation. Hungary is Peter's country of birth where he has contact and speaks the language.

Supporting Peter from Australia is Ethel who provides feedback to Peter on the script. In this 27 minute documentary, Peter and Ethel work together over two years to produce the Sorella's Story to honour those whose lives were senselessly taken all those years ago.

In Their Name is a documentary that aims to highlight the critical need to remember and learn from past traumas. What can happen if prejudice is not confronted? At the frail age of 92, Ethel is determined to be the first person to see Sorella's Story with 360 goggles.



# **PETER HEGEDUS | BIOGRAPHY**

## **Writer, Director, Producer**

Peter Hegedus' filmmaking career spans over 25 years. He has been making films since the age of 17 exploring human stories that shed light on identity, place and belonging. His work is characterized by a commitment to social justice be they documentary or drama.

Peter's work has been shown at major Film Festivals around the world including one of his documentaries ***Inheritance a Fisherman's Story*** being shortlisted for the Academy Awards and his latest 360 immersive story ***Sorella's Story*** having been selected for competition at the prestigious Venice International Film Festival. His critically acclaimed films have also won numerous awards and been broadcast in many countries.

Peter is also the Deputy Director for Research & Engagement at the Griffith Film School which is the biggest film School of its kind in Australia. Peter continues to participate in panel discussions and forums around the world concerning international financing, documentary ethics and directing. He has also been active in the non-governmental sector supporting key social justice organisations around Australia and Europe.

## **DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT**

***In Their Name*** was never meant to become a documentary. Initially we simply wanted to create a short behind-the-scenes story that captured the key technical challenges of ***Sorella's Story*** - our immersive 360 dramatic recreation that explored the story of young Jewish girl from Latvia whose life was cut short by Nazi Germans and their Latvian collaborators in the infamous Skede massacre where close to 4000 women and children were killed.

Initially we had no clear directive to the documentary as we were in the midst of shooting the 360-film which had to be prioritised. Hence for months, we were filming interviews with relatives of survivors, historians and anyone who may have had knowledge or was somehow connected to the Skede Massacre in Latvia. The moment that I knew we had a compelling narrative is when we met Ilana Ivanova, the woman whose father found and hid the photo that inspired ***Sorella's Story***. Ilana not only gave us a heartfelt interview, but she also connected me with 90-year-old Jewish Australian Ethel Davis who actually wrote a book about the Latvian Holocaust. Remarkably, we found that the narrative fortuitously led us back to Australia, to Ethel. Then another major discovery happened at this point: Ethel's cousins and aunt - were also killed in the same massacre as Sorella. Soon, Ethel became a key character in the documentary as the (historical) story consultant to ***Sorella's Story***.

My relationship with Ethel became a driving narrative in the documentary as we work through the complicated process to bring authenticity to ***Sorella's Story***, so that Sorella and the warning that her story bears witness to is not lost in history. During the COVID lock down, Ethel and I continued our work via ZOOM: me in Brisbane and Ethel isolated in her Sydney nursing home. We came together, to discuss the script, look at footage, and eventually becoming friends in the process.

Making ***Sorella's Story*** had been a very arduous process primarily for technical reasons. For months I had been very nervous that Ethel may not get to experience the

film. In the end however we managed to produce a section of the film and for her to be the first person to witness experience the 360 experience.

I have a lot to thank my Masters students who poured their heart and soul into both films. Their technical knowledge and fresh perspectives to the Holocaust has been inspiring and I can easily say that without them I would not have been able to make ***Sorella's Story*** or the documentary IN THEIR NAME.

Making this documentary has been an enormously satisfying and truly self-healing journey. Having to work with atrocity photographs over three years on a continuous basis has been probably the most difficult part of the project; to know that there is nothing we can do to change what happened and to fear that this could happen again. I realise now that this feeling of discomfort is something we should all learn to live with. We need to all collectively own this human tragedy and recognise all the other genocides that have tragically taken place subsequently...and we must never forget the price we pay when we deny our common humanity.

## **PRODUCER'S STATEMENTS**

### ***Peter Hegedus***

*In their Name* has been a passion project from the beginning. It tells the story of how my VR360 immersive short drama film *Sorella's Story* was made over a period of three years telling the story of the Skede beach massacre.

Pitching a film for funding about the Holocaust in 2020 was a challenging task given the numerous films made over the last 70 years about one of the world's most tragic genocides. So it was a great relief when ABC Compass showed interest. Eventually they supported us with modest but critical financial support that triggered other funding allowing us to tell this story. I can easily say that without ABC Compass support *In Their Name* would never have been made.

Whilst the documentary was primarily shot in Latvia and Hungary, it was important for us that for this version of the documentary, we focus on the Australian angle and hence follow the narrative of one of the films' key protagonists Ethel Davis. Ethel's personal story and her determination to honour her extended family who were killed in the Skede massacre, sits at the centre of our film and underpins my efforts as producer/director to make the immersive short film titled *Sorella's Story*.

We were particularly glad to have filmed an in depth conversation with Ethel in her son's house earlier this year. Not only was this conversation a reflection of the friendship that we've built over the years but it also highlighted the film's relevance to the concerning geopolitical situation in the world today and its connection to the themes we are exploring in the documentary.

### ***Jaclyn McLendon***

The concept of *In Their Name* appealed to me from the onset. It speaks to the challenges Director/Writer Peter Hegedus and his masters students had to overcome to make ***Sorella's Story***. Importantly it also brings an authentic Australian experience with the Holocaust and explores the reasons why it is still and will remain an important lesson of our past to ensure our future isn't as marked with unspeakable racial prejudice.

The relationship between Peter and Ethel, is incredibly unique and special. The way they can have a candid conversation, whilst addressing the generational trauma of the Holocaust, and explore the

ways it has shaped their lives remains is inspiring and something, we believe, will speak to our ABC audience.

We thank our supporters, especially the ABC for taking a risk with this project, and seeing the relevance of this topic now. ***Sorella's Story*** is going places and this film ***In Their Name*** shows why.

### ***Bobbi-Lea Dionysius***

Having worked with Peter on his last feature documentary, ***Lili***, as the producer of marketing and distribution, I was familiar with the social issues and impact landscape of the Holocaust which is a recurring theme in Peter's work.

Studies have shown that many of the younger generation have a limited understanding of the Holocaust and the memory is slowly fading. Given that prejudice is still rife in the world, it is imperative to keep the memory alive as a stark warning of the devastation that prejudice can lead to.

Through the generous support of the Gandel Foundation, we have been afforded the opportunity to do a roadshow of the short documentary, along with our companion piece - a 360 immersive short film called ***Sorella's Story***, which brings to life the story behind the main photo highlighted in the documentary.

We will be collaborating with the Melbourne Holocaust Museum to provide the screening guide and educational toolit, while ensuring a safe in / safe out protocol for the sensitive and emotively evocative content which some viewers may find challenging.

***In Their Name*** is not only a documentary about a Holocaust survivor, but a continual plea for a more humane society.

### ***Key Participants***

ETHEL DAVIS  
ÖREGANYA - ZSUZSA HÖLZEL  
ILANA IVANOVA  
AMELIA PAXMAN  
SARAH HOPE  
GILBERTO ROQUE  
JEMMA POTGIETER  
TESS BRADING  
KIARA KÁLMÁN  
CHARLOTTE STENT

### ***Key Participant Statement***

#### ***Ethel Davis***

Peter Hegedus read my book ***Latvia's Haunting Secrets*** (published in 2014/2016) and arranged to meet me well over two years ago now, when he told me about his project titled ***In Their Name***. I was overwhelmed by his request to collaborate with him on his important project. We immediately connected as I too had discovered that my aunt Dina, uncle Grisha and cousins Josef and Ruth-Sara were murdered by the Nazis and Latvian collaborators on Skede beach, Liepaja in December 1941 where the photograph, the focus of his film - was also taken. Now they will never be forgotten. I am impressed by Peter's dedication in pursuing accurate facts. I am honoured to be involved in bringing ***In Their Name*** to the world and to future generations.

# PRODUCTIONS STILLS

High-Res: [bit.ly/InTheirName-ProdStills](https://bit.ly/InTheirName-ProdStills)



**Ethel Davis**  
(image provided by Ethel)



**Ethel Davis visiting the memorial site at Skede Beach, Liepāja. (image provided by Ethel)**



**Ethel Davis and Peter Hegedus at Bondi Beach. (image: Zoltan Vladucz)**





**Ethel Davis watching the 360 short film Sorella's Story. (image: Zoltan Vladucz)**



**Sorella & her family  
(360 re-enactment).**



**SS troops force the women & children  
walk to Skede Beach in the harsh winter.**



**The memorial site in Skede Beach today. (image: Robert Klepis)**