

SONDERKOMMANDO

The best revenge is a clean soul.



Winter 2021
SONDERKOMMANDO
Semi-Finalist

A dramatic film proposal by
Morgan Blackbyrne and Stephen Chandler Whitehead

24. Okt 1943.

040/b
14a

31550/Ja./No.-

A Sonderkommando escapes the nightmarish slavery of a Nazi death camp to become an emissary of death feared by the occupying German forces.

His obsession with vengeance gives way to the equally powerful quest of a Nazi doctor, who hunts him with enigmatic passion.

Leistung der nunmehr vorhandenen Krematorien
bei einer 24 stündigen Arbeitszeit :

<u>1.) altes Krematorium I</u>		
3 x 2 Muffelöfen	340	Personen
<u>2.) neues Krematorium I.K.G.L. II</u>		
5 x 3 Muffelöfen	1440	Personen
<u>3.) neues Krematorium III</u>		
9 x 3 Muffelöfen	1440	Personen
<u>4.) neues Krematorium IV.</u>		
8 Muffelöfen	768	Personen
<u>5.) neues Krematorium V.</u>		
8 Muffelöfen	768	Personen
Insges. bei 24 stündiger Arbeitszeit	4756	Personen

Verteiler:

Akt - Jantoch *Baums*
" - Kirschnek
Registratur K.G.L. BW. 30

Jantoch

Der Leiter der Zentralbauleitung
der Waffen- und Polizei Auschwitz

Sturmbannführer.



On October 14th, 1943, over 300 prisoners of the Nazi death camp at Sobibor, Poland, manage the impossible and escape annihilation by the machine known as the Final Solution. While most are recaptured or shot, over 40 prisoners, mostly Sonderkommando, are never found again.

One escapee, Gabrysz Zumstein, 48, a half German half Polish artist, teacher and Sonderkommando for nearly a year, is a double anomaly - most Sonderkommando are disposed of within three months.



In his eleven months, Gabrysz has endured the most dreadful of duties, doing what the Nazis made him do - assist in the gassing and disposal of thousands of Jews, Gypsies, and other prisoners...like himself. For Gabrysz wears the pink triangle of a homosexual, and undesirable person to the Third Reich.

Gabrysz disappears into the massive Polish wilderness and discovers not only that he can survive but thrive, using the tools left behind by an unwitting benefactor he finds in the woods - a dead German soldier.



Numbed by his torturous experiences in the crematoriums, an almost inhuman Gabrysz unleashes his own brand of Hell upon any and all German targets he can find. Revenge appears to be his God given calling.

What he doesn't yet know is that his own enemy is not only responsible for keeping him alive, but may be the instrument of something much greater than Gabrysz can possibly fathom - to save life not take it.



On the hunt for Gabrysz is Major Jonas Kimmler, a Nazi doctor who has worked with the likes of Josef Mengele.

Kimmler's quest is personally motivated yet a mystery to even those hunting with him - his hand-picked team of soldiers and snipers, dispatched to capture the elusive Gabrysz.



SONDERKOMMANDO unfolds our deepest need to comprehend and heal one of the darkest chapters of human history. That caring, love and life can push through the rubble of war. To cleanse the suffering souls, achieving the best revenge imaginable.

LOOK AND STYLE:

Even the hardest hitting imagery within the Sobibor death camp scenes will be handled with dignity and taste, while still being true to the dark nature and truth of the Shoah - the Holocaust.



For the overall cinematographic look, the aim is to arrive at a mix between actual combat footage from World War II and the gritty look of the film "Fury."



A desolate look that echoes the truth found in documentary combat footage.



ROI COMPARABLE WAR MOVIES

At a proposed budget of \$2 million dollars, "SONDERKOMMANDO" is poised not only to make back its original investment, but more than double that in profit. When one considers the worldwide market, especially the European territories, "SONDERKOMMANDO" will be a hit. These figures do not even consider online streaming services, where there are several windows of distribution available. "SONDERKOMMANDO" will be making money for several years.

Here is a modest sample of some notable titles yet similar titles that have wowed audiences worldwide:



SON OF SAUL
2015 - Hungary
Budget: € 1.5 million
Gross: \$9.7 million

SOBIBOR
2018 - Russia, Germany,
Lithuania, Poland
Budget: \$2.4 million
Gross: \$5.1 million



THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER
2017 - Finland
Budget: € 7 million
Gross: € 13.5 million

BEYOND THE LINE
2019 - Canada
Budget: \$7 million
Gross: \$16.3 million



ATTACHED CAST



MALE LEAD

MORGAN BLACKBYRNE as GABRYSZ ZUMSTEIN

Writer, Producer

Morgan has been a professional actor and screenwriter for over 25 years, having studied and worked with Shannon Lawson, Jeff Daniels, and director Ron Howard on "Cinderella Man".

His first featurette, a medieval period piece, "Cold Iron", premiered at the Montreal World Film Festival in 1989 and in three other festivals around the world.

He starred in his first feature film "Black Coat Mob", which won Best Picture and Best Actor (Morgan Blackbyrne) at the Twisted Sinema Film Festival in Toronto, Canada. "Black Coat Mob" was distributed through eOne across Canada on several VOD platforms.

Morgan's latest feature acting role was the male lead in "Reliving Marilyn", a film about Marilyn Monroe. "Reliving Marilyn" can be found on Amazon Prime and Tubi. Morgan Blackbyrne is unique as a performer, being also the creator of "Sonderkommando". Enjoy Morgan Blackbyrne, as Gabrysz, in the promotional trailer for "Sonderkommando".



SUPPORTING CAST

SHANNON LAWSON as DR. STEINHOLZ

Shannon is a Gemini Award winning actress and is a multiple Gemini Award nominee with over sixty film and television credits to her name.

Her first project with Morgan was "Reliving Marilyn," a film centering on Marilyn Monroe's friendship with her makeup artist, Whitey Snyder. Shannon was brought on as an acting and dialect coach and she also played the role of Marilyn's acting coach, Natasha Lytess.

Enjoy Shannon Lawson as Dr. Steinholz in the promotional trailer for "Sonderkommando".

**Cast Recommendations for the female lead character,
Emunah:**

KATE HUDSON

Kate Hudson, best known for her roles in "Almost Famous" and "Deepwater Horizon", can be currently seen in the 2022 sequel to "Knives Out", "Glass Onion: A Knives Out Mystery".

For "Sonderkommando", we feel her sensitivity will bring the right contrast needed to balance the emotional darkness of the film.



**Cast Recommendations male supporting character,
Major Kimmler**

KIEFER SUTHERLAND

Kiefer Sutherland is best known for his starring role as Jack Bauer in the Fox drama series, "24", for which he won an Emmy Award, a Golden Globe Award, two Screen Actors Guild Awards and two Satellite Awards.

He is also well respected, by our team, for his role as Dr. Daniel Schreiber in "Dark City", as well as his roles in "Young Guns 1 and 2", and the emotionally gripping western, "Forsaken".



ATTACHED CREW



STEPHEN CHANDLER WHITEHEAD

Director of Photography

Stephen Whitehead is an award-winning cinematographer based in Toronto. He is a member of the Canadian Society of Cinematographers and has won CSC awards for both “Emes” and “A People Uncounted”. His work has been screened at prestigious cinematography film festivals around the world, including Manaki Brothers and Camerimage.

Whitehead has filmed seemingly everything, from the icy terrains of Nunavut to the searing deserts of Qatar and has shot throughout Europe.



GIOVANNI BONURA

Composer

Giovanni worked with Morgan Blackbyrne on the indie feature, “Reliving Marilyn”, released in 2020 for international streaming on Amazon Prime and Tubi. Currently, Giovanni is involved in several projects, on a deliverable basis, with Paramount, Lionsgate and Ubiquity Entertainment.

We are pleased to have Giovanni Bonura’s music featured as the soundtrack in our proof-of-concept trailer for “Sonderkommando”.