

"POWERFUL PERFORMANCES!"

-Stephen Holden, THE NEW YORK TIMES

"EXCEPTIONAL... THRILLING!"

-Michael Wilmington, CHICAGO TRIBUNE

"TWO THUMBS UP!"

-Ebert & Roeper

ISTVÁN SZABÓ'S

TAKING SIDES

HARVEY
KEITEL

STELLAN
SKARSGÅRD

Mar del Plata Film Festival

ADF Cinematography Award

Best Actor

Best Director

Kodak Award

SIGNIS Award

DIRECTED BY ACADEMY AWARD® WINNER ISTVÁN SZABÓ
BASED ON THE STAGE PLAY BY ACADEMY AWARD® WINNER RONALD HARWOOD

HARVEY KEITEL STELLAN SKARSGÅRD MORITZ BLEIBTREU BIRGIT MINICHMAYR ULRICH TUKUR

WITH ROBIN RENUCCI FRANK LEOEUF ARMIN ROHDE OLEG TABAKOV HANS ZISCHLER LEE ERMEY PRODUCED BY YVES PASQUIER

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY LAJOS KOLTAI A.S.C. SOUND BRIAN SIMMONS A.M.P.S. SET DESIGN KEN ADAM COSTUMES GYÖRGYI SZAKÁCS EDITOR SYLVIE LANDRA

EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS RAINER MOCKERT RAINER SCHAPER JACQUES ROUSSEAU MAUREEN MCCABE SIR JEREMY ISAACS MICHAEL VON WOLKENSTEIN

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TWANPIX, SATEL FILM, DRF IN COLLABORATION WITH CANAL +, FFA, FILMBOARD, MDM.



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ISTVÁN SZABÓ'S

TAKING SIDES

After Hitler took over power in 1933, many Jewish artists were forced to leave Germany, persuading others to protest through voluntarily exile. Wilhelm Furtwängler, arguably the most distinguished conductor of his generation, chose to stay, serving as one of the Nazi's foremost cultural assets.

Though never a member of the Party, Furtwängler was the recipient of government honors and appointments, associated with party members, and conducted at party functions, including Hitler's birthday. He was named Prussian Privy Council by Goering and Vice-President of the chamber of Music of the Third Reich by Goebbels. However, Furtwängler's concerts represented pockets of resistance from inside Nazi Germany, and the conductor often used his position and contacts with the abject regime in order to save hundreds of Jewish musicians from the concentration camps, at his own risk. Should he be punished for staying in his country and accepting to compromise or should his efforts to oppose the evil regime from within be recognized?



The American Denazification Committee gave Major Steve Arnold the task of carrying out the pre-trial investigation, with orders to contribute to the extermination of Nazism in Germany. For Major Arnold and his hierarchy, Furtwängler represents the moral weakness and cowardly complicity of the German people who enabled the emergence and establishment of a fascist regime. His mission is to make an example of Furtwängler in order to try to eradicate the evil. The American major, an insurance claims investigator in civilian life, is aided in his enquiries by lieutenant David Wills, liaison officer with the Allied Cultural Affairs Committee, and Emmi Straube, a concentration camp survivor whose father was executed as one of the plotters in a failed assassination attempt against Hitler in 1944.

While Major Arnold is obsessed with simplistic, absolute justice, his young assistants hold Furtwängler in high esteem as an artist instead of condemning him outright for his collaboration with the Nazis. Two worlds collide...

Academy Award Winner István Szabó, Academy Award Winner Ron Harwood, Academy Award Winner Ken Adam, Academy Award Nominee Harvey Keitel