

AHEA Conference
14-17 April 2011
John Carroll University, University Hts. (Cleveland), Ohio USA

*As part of the 2011 AHEA Conference,
a documentary film by Susan M. Papp:*



“OUTCASTS: A LOVE STORY”

Friday, April 15, 2011

**Lombardo Student Center, JCU campus
in the JARDINE ROOM**

TIME: 4:30 – 6:00 pm

Free and open to the public

*Everyone is welcome to stay and meet
the producer-director Ms. Papp after the viewing.*

About the film:

“OUTCASTS: A LOVE STORY”

In this story of love and loss, Tibor Schroeder, a young businessman, a Christian, and a reservist in the Hungarian forces allied with Nazi Germany, and Hedy Weisz, a young Jewish woman and a stunning beauty, meet and fall in love during the Second World War. Tibor is the son of the head of the press corps for the Hungarian army. She works as the office manager for Tibor’s company. Tibor and Hedy’s love for each other blossoms at the worst possible time — not only were romantic liaisons and marriages between Christians and Jews frowned upon, their relationship was also a violation of Hungarian Law at the time. Not knowing of the dangers that await them, Tibor and Hedy pledge their lives to each other.



*Tibor and István Schroeder
overlooking the vineyards*



*Outcasts: A Love Story is a
bittersweet story that has taken
two families through war and
peace -- from Europe to Canada --
amid happiness and heartbreak.*



Their story unfolds in Nagyszőlőös—the city of wine, in a region of rolling riversides, nestled in the foothills of the Carpathian Mountains of Central Europe, where Hungary, Ukraine and Slovakia converge. The town was a place of tolerance, where families of many creeds pursued their lives in harmony. But by 1944, Central Europe has been shattered by three years of war, and the vineyards of the Carpathian foothills are under the Nazi shadow.



Hedy Weisz (far left) with a group of friends from business college.



Tibor is called to duty as a reservist in the Hungarian army. His unit receives its orders to leave by train. Hedy's fate is much more ominous. She and her family are herded into the Nagyszőlőös ghetto. Tibor resolves to try to save her. His plan is to hide her in a railway baggage car on his troop train and take her to safety -- wherever that may be. He constructs a secret compartment out of ammunition boxes, and stocks it with food, blankets and tokens of his love. He promises that he will desert and they will journey together to a new life.

But Tibor's plan collapses. After one night in the compartment, Hedy tells him that she cannot abandon her family. She returns to the ghetto, awaiting transport to Auschwitz, and almost certain death. The lovers are swept apart by the war and its aftermath. Twenty-five years pass before the lovers are finally reunited in Canada.



Tibor Schroeder as a young man



In the poignant climax, we join Tibor in Canada's Centennial year of 1967, aboard a train from Toronto to Montreal, bound for a reunion with his beloved Hedy and what, he dreams, will be a renewal of a love stronger than hate and war. Central to their saga is the true tale of a man and a woman who chose the worst possible moment to fall in love -- and their surviving brothers' lifelong search for understanding and forgiveness. Based on true events, this sprawling saga of love, hope, courage, and redemption will stay with viewers long after they see the film.

ABOUT THE PRODUCER-DIRECTOR:

Susan M. Papp is a television producer, director, and writer, who, after working for the CBC for 15 years, founded her own television production company, **Postmodern Productions**. She has written and published widely on Hungarian immigration to and settlement in North America. She lives in Toronto.

Ms. Papp earned a Master of Arts in North American Social History at York University in Toronto in 1985. Ms. Papp began her career in journalism at the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation's Radio Drama department in 1981 as a historical researcher. In 1985, she worked in the national newsroom as researcher and program organizer.

In 1988, **Ms. Papp** became a current affairs producer in the regional news department at the CBC. One of the televised documentaries she produced won two of the most prestigious awards in Canada: **The Michener Award** and **The Best Investigative Award** of the Canadian Journalists Association.



Susan M. Papp



Ms. Papp developed a profile and reputation as a current affairs reporter specializing in social issues for CBC TV. In 1991, she was chosen to work as field producer for *The Journal*, and its subsequent retitled version *Prime Time News*. In 1993, while on leave of absence from the CBC, Ms. Papp founded her own television production company, **Postmodern Productions**. Her first independently produced film entitled *Debris of War* is an hour long documentary on the trauma of the war in the former Yugoslavia. In 1998, *Debris of War* was awarded the Canadian Ethnic and Journalists and Writers Award for Best Documentary. In June 1995, **Ms. Papp** left her position at the CBC and has devoted all her energies to independent television production.

Postmodern Productions has developed strategic alliances with respected entertainment companies in Los Angeles, Winnipeg, and Budapest, Hungary. Since 1998, **Ms. Papp** has produced and directed numerous documentaries, the most recent of which is *OUTCASTS*.