

Good Evening, Mr. Wallenberg

Original title: God afton, herr Wallenberg.

Version: DVD, English subtitles.

Running time: 115 mins.

Production: Sandrew Film 1990.

Main actors: Stellan Skarsgård, Géza Balkay, Katharina Thalbach, Percy Brandt, Károly Eperjes

Synopsis

Raoul Wallenberg, aged 32, arrived in Budapest in July, 1944, on a life and death mission. His approach was unorthodox and his methods unconventional. In six short months he made possible the largest and most successful rescue of Jews during World War II. Raoul Wallenberg was taken prisoner by the Russians on January 17th, 1945. He was never released.

The film deals exclusively with Raoul Wallenberg's final two or three weeks in Budapest (Christmas 1944 - January 1945). There are two central events: Raoul's attempts to liberate 20 or so people captured on a truck, and his efforts to save 65,000 others who are confined to the ghetto.

Raoul Wallenberg, was born in 1912, member of a famous Swedish banking family, educated as a businessman and later worked as an architect in the USA. He returned to Sweden in 1939 and ran an import-export business in luxury foods. During the war he was able to move freely in Germany, France and Hungary. But it was obvious that he had not achieved what he wished to with his life.

Biography/filmography for Kjell Grede

Kjell Grede, born in 1936, is one of Sweden's leading film directors and screenwriters. He is most well-known internationally for his films Hugo and Josefin (1967), Harry Munter (1969), Claire Lust (1972) and Good Evening, Mr. Wallenberg (1990). He has also written and directed two major television series about August Strindberg: A Madman's Defense (1976) and three parts of Strindberg – a Life (1983-85). In addition, Grede has directed memorable productions for television of two plays by Jean-Paul Sartre, No Exit and The Prisoners of Altona.