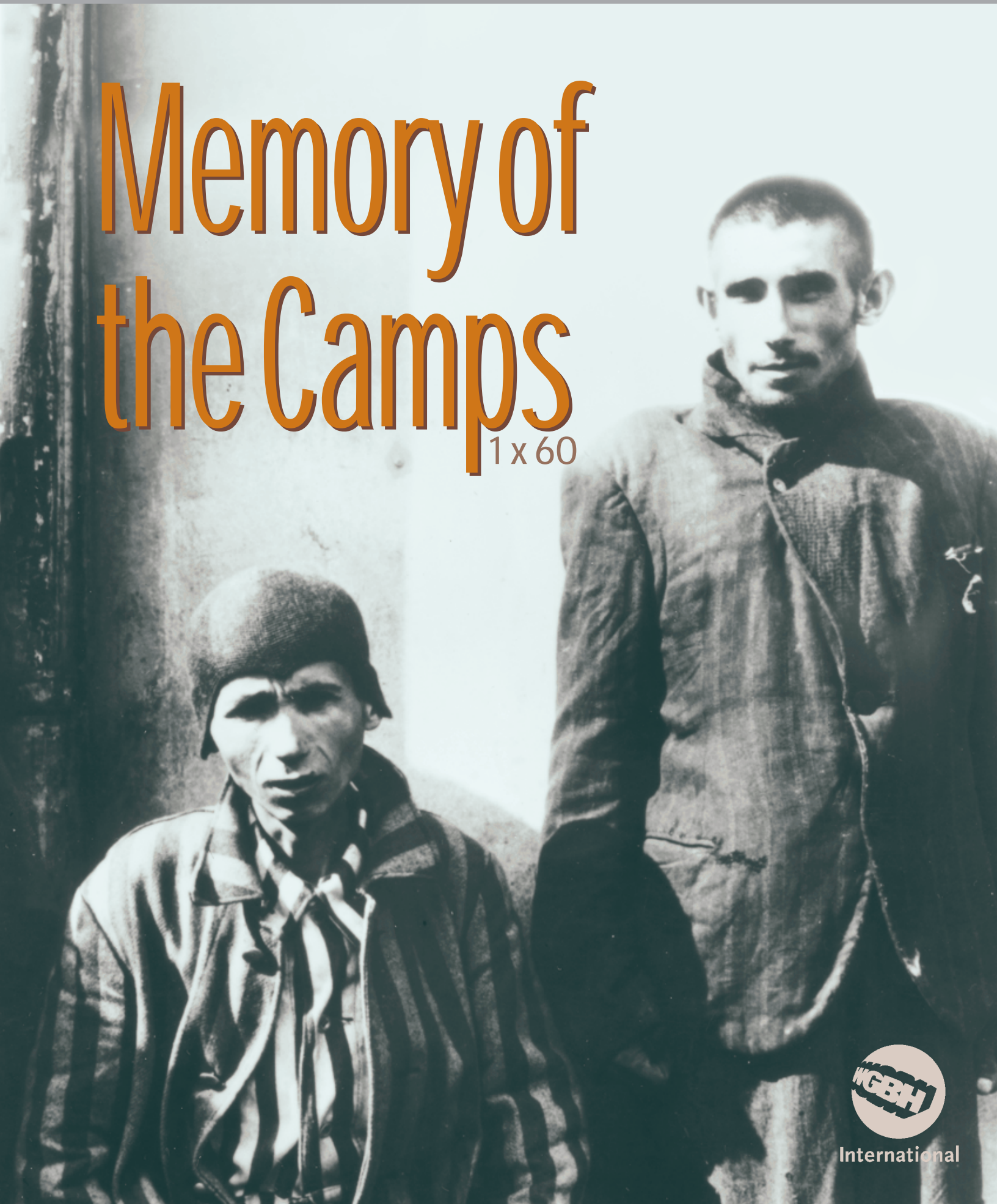


Memory of the Camps

1 x 60



International

Memory of the Camps

1 x 60

CONTACT

Tom Koch, *Director*
WGBH International
125 Western Avenue
Boston, MA 02134 USA

TEL 617-300-3893
FAX 617-779-7900

tom_koch@wgbh.org
wgbh.org/international

Fifty-four years ago, in April 1945, Allied Forces liberating Europe found evidence of atrocities which have tortured the world's conscience ever since. As the troops entered the German concentration camps, they made a systematic film record of what they saw. However, the documentary was never released. FRONTLINE found it stored in a vault at London's Imperial War Museum and, in 1985, broadcast it for the first time.

Memory of the Camps remains one of the most definitive and unforgettable records of this century's darkest hour. Assembled and edited in the summer of 1945 under the supervision of the British Ministry of Information and the American Office of War Information, some of the documentary editing was done under the direction of Alfred Hitchcock.

"At the time we found the film, it was not entirely clear what role Hitchcock played in its development," says David Fanning, senior executive producer of FRONTLINE. "This is partly because it was never finished. One reel of the original six, shot by Russians, is missing. There was the script intact, but it had never been recorded. FRONTLINE took the film, added the script and asked the late British actor Trevor Howard to record it. The aim was to present the film, unedited, as close as possible to what the producers intended over a half century ago."

Memory of the Camps includes scenes from Dachau, Auschwitz, Buchenwald, and other death camps whose names are not as well known. Some of the horrors documented took place literally moments before the Allied troops arrived, as the Germans hurried to cover the evidence of what they had done.

"Obviously the film's producers in 1945 felt the pictures they had told their own story," says Fanning. "And the film is shocking. It will be difficult for many people to watch. But there is a line of commentary in the script which says the filmmakers hope an audience may 'absorb what is hoped will be a dreadful lesson.'"

05.02.003

FRONTLINE

CREDITS

Executive Producer: David Fanning

Director: Sydney Bernstein

Narrator: Trevor Howard

Treatment Advisor: Alfred Hitchcock

An Imperial War Museum Archival Film.

Cover Photo Credit: © US Army/National Center for Jewish Film



International