

JOHN J. MICHALCZYK

Boston College

Documentary Filmmaker, Fine Arts Professor & Film Studies Program Co-Director

Boston College Fine Arts Professor John Michalczyk, co-director of the university's Film Studies Program, is a filmmaker whose documentaries have focused on issues of social justice. He often uses the examinations of painful human experiences to shed light on our humanity.

Michalczyk's documentaries explore issues of discrimination, hatred, war and peace. His films to date have given voice to those working for peaceful resolutions in Northern Ireland, the Balkans, South Africa and the Middle East; examined anti-Semitism in the Christian world; found inspiration from people and music in the wake of World War II, and taken on ignorance as it relates to persons with disabilities.

Since 2001, Michalczyk has directed the Jacques Salmanowitz Program for Moral Courage in Documentary Film for aspiring student filmmakers interested in producing films addressing issues of moral courage, human rights and social justice. The program is named for Jacques Salmanowitz, a Swiss businessman who was instrumental in bringing individuals trapped behind enemy lines in World War II to safety in Switzerland and in other European countries. The program provides a film production mentoring service, including advice, consultation and workshops, for BC undergraduate or graduate students who are interested in making films about social issues.

FILMOGRAPHY

The following is a listing of films directed by John Michalczyk.

□ **"Creating Harmony: The Displaced Persons' Orchestra at St. Ottilien"**

"Creating Harmony: The Displaced Persons' Orchestra at St. Ottilien" (2007) tells the story of musicians who survived the Nazis during World War II and the message of hope and inspiration their newly formed orchestra brought to fellow survivors and the world. The film is a sequel to the documentary "Displaced! Miracle at St. Ottilien," about two Army privates' campaign to stop abuse of displaced persons in the camp.

"Creating Harmony" follows the Jewish orchestra from their origins in St. Ottilien Displaced Persons Camp immediately following World War II to 1949. The orchestra performed for inmates at St. Ottilien, and then across Germany, for Golda Meir and for the Nuremberg Trial judges. Famed conductor Leonard Bernstein led the orchestra for two performances.

Sonia Beker, whose parents were musicians in the orchestra and who wrote the book *Symphony on Fire: A Story of Music and Spiritual Resistance During the Holocaust*, served as a consultant for the film. According to her, the orchestra "said, 'Look, we are still here after all that's happened. We can still create something beautiful that we can share with one another and with the world, even though the world did not care.'"

"Creating Harmony" showcases archival footage, music and interviews with family members of the musicians, audience members and others. It was co-produced by Ronald Marsh of Boston College's O'Neill Library. It had its world premiere in 2007 at the Museum of Jewish Heritage-A

Living Memorial to the Holocaust in New York City. It also was screened at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston in December, 2007.

□ **"Displaced: Miracle at St. Otilien"**

"Michalczyk is an accomplished and highly-regarded filmmaker, who has focused on social justice...Herman, Hilliard and Michalczyk all believe that the message to be gained from the new film is that ordinary people exerting extraordinary efforts can make a difference..For his part, Michalczyk said he hopes that the film will inspire viewers to emulate Herman and Hilliard, who 'looked at human beings who were suffering, waded through all the paperwork, all the rules and regulations and changed the world.'"--Susan L. Sherwood, Wayland Town Crier

"Displaced: Miracle at St. Otilien" (2002, 46 min.) is a documentary based on the true experiences of US Army privates Edward Herman and Robert Hilliard, who were stationed in Germany at the close of World War II. They discovered the horrendous treatment of displaced Jews in St. Otilien, a camp run by the US military. In an effort to alleviate the suffering, the two GIs stole food from their own mess and smuggled it into the camp. Then the two soldiers started a letter writing campaign which caught the attention of President Harry Truman, who ordered an investigation which led to the end to the abuse. The film is based on a memoir written by Mr. Hilliard.

The world premiere, attended by Mr. Hilliard and survivors of St. Otilien, was held at the Katz Jewish Community Center in Cherry Hill, New Jersey in November, 2002. A New England premiere was held at Boston College in February, 2003 and was attended by Mr. Hilliard. The film has been screened at the Toronto Jewish Film Festival (May, 2003), the Rhode Island International Film Festival (August, 2003), the Boston Jewish Film Festival (November, 2003) and the 2004 World Jewish Film Festival in Tel Aviv. In the fall of 2004, "Displaced" also was showed at the Museum of Jewish Heritage in NY where many Holocaust survivors whose parents were at the St. Otilien camp, and also some whom were born there, were in attendance. The film was broadcast on public television, WBGH2, in October 2004.

□ **CONFLICT RESOLUTION SERIES**

This is a series of documentaries on conflict resolution in world trouble spots. The series, initially conducted in partnership with the Boston Theological Institute, focuses on Northern Ireland, the Balkans, South Africa, the Middle East, Sicily and Russia. More recently, a commemoration of the fall of the Berlin Wall was added to the series.

"Writing on the Wall: Remembering the Berlin Wall"

"Writing on the Wall: Remembering the Berlin Wall" (2009), which tells the stories of leaders and ordinary citizens caught in the political power struggle that was the Berlin Wall, was released to coincide with the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Wall. The film highlights the principle phases of the Berlin Wall's evolution and captures the personal narratives of both leaders and citizens caught in the drama. The event not only divided East and West Berlin, but also the US and Russia.

Among the voices and stories featured in the film are: Edwina Sandys, Winston Churchill's granddaughter; Sergei Khrushchev, Nikita Khrushchev's son; Thomas Flanagan, who has involved in

the Berlin Airlift; Klaus Schutz, former mayor of West Berlin; Heidi Roseneck-O'Sullivan, an escapee from East Berlin; Baron Hermann von Richthofen, a former German Ambassador to Great Britain; Wolfgang Thierse, Vice-President of the German Parliament, and Alexandra Hildebrandt, Director of the Museum at Checkpoint Charlie.

"The Berlin Wall holds both real and metaphorical meanings, its presence physically dividing East and West Berlin, while symbolically representing Communist oppression," says John Michalczyk, co-producer of the documentary.

Shot on location in Berlin, the film was part of the German Embassy's Freedom Without Walls campaign, a commemoration of the 20th Anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall.

The script was written by Michalczyk, Adjunct Associate Professor in the Arts and Sciences Honors Program Susan Michalczyk and German Studies Professor Michael Resler, who also served as associate producer/field producer. Music Assistant Professor Ralf Yusuf Gawlick was responsible for the musical composition. The musical performance was by the Hawthorne String Quartet, BC's quartet-in-residence.

Funding for the documentary was provided by Boston College (Institute of Liberal Arts, Fine Arts/Film Studies, Calderwood Chair, Salmanowitz Program, Jesuit Institute); Laura and Lorenz Reibling Foundation; Thomas J. and Erma Jean Tracy Foundation; and the Rotary Club of Scituate. It had its world premiere in 2009 at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, and went on to be included in the Streaming Museum urban mega-screen project in Piazza Duomo, Milan, Italy, on November 7 as part of the city's celebration. New York Law School's Global Law and Justice Colloquium screened the work as part of the program "The Fall of the Wall—Then and Now—Politics, Law, and Culture."

"Writing on the Wall" also had its Mid-West premiere at the Winston Churchill Memorial and Library in Westminster College (Fulton, MO) where Edwina Sandys described her Berlin Wall sculpture, "Breakthrough." The documentary has also been screened at Boston College as well as the Rotary International Convention in Montreal (2010) where the recently published *Curriculum Guide, Conflict Resolution Films: Reconciling with the Other* was introduced.

"Confronting Amnesia: Frozen Memories of the Russian Gulag"

The Russian Gulag, considered one of the worst violations of human rights in history, is the subject of the documentary "Confronting Amnesia: Frozen Memories of the Russian Gulag" (56 min. 2009). The film tells the story the Soviet Union's network of forced labor camps used to imprison millions of citizens. The camps, particularly during the reign of Joseph Stalin, were a tool for repression of political opposition and the setting of millions of executions as well as deaths due to exhaustion, hunger and disease.

Michalczyk felt that the story of the human rights violations of the Gulag needed to be told visually to combat what has been called Western blindness to the Soviet Gulag. "Somehow, the enormity of the evil perpetrated in the Gulag has generally eluded the collective consciousness of Americans and Western societies," he said. "One expects a shared visceral impact akin to that felt in our reaction to the Holocaust testament. Both offer the quintessential demonstration of Man's capacity to inflict organized suffering on vulnerable populations."

Filmed on location in Siberia, Moscow, Perm and St. Petersburg, the documentary tells several stories including the search Jon Utley conducted to learn the fate of his father who was taken from the family's home in Russia in 1936. After the collapse of the Soviet Union, Utley was able to uncover documentation of his father's his arrest, indictment and execution order. Utley's father was killed for leading a hunger strike in a Siberian labor camp.

The documentary also highlights the human rights group Memorial Society in Russia which struggles against the current government's attempt to whitewash the past and resurrect the image of Stalin.

Michalczyk co-produced the film along with Etoile International Productions partner Ronald Marsh of BC's O'Neill Library and Sy Rotter of the Foundation for Moral Courage. Sponsorship came from the Thomas Tracy and Erma Jean Family Foundation; the Freda Utley Foundation; Boston College, and the Jacques Salmanowitz Program. "Confronting Amnesia" was screened at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston in January, 2009 and at Boston College in February, 2009.

"Killing Silence: Taking on the Mafia in Sicily"

John Michalczyk has "channeled his social activism into filmmaking."-- Donna Goodison, The Boston Globe

"John Michalczyk's new documentary, 'Killing Silence' explores the devastation and valor left in the wake of a social revolution, a battle of good versus evil...[He] is a seasoned documentarian, having directed and produced more than a dozen films, each of which explores conflict prompted by social discord." -- Sara Faith Alterman, NewEnglandFilm.com

"[Killing Silence] is a revealing travelogue into Sicilian society. Mixing history and sociology, Michalczyk examines how the Mafia became entrenched in Sicilian life and how its violent excesses drove the public to finally take a stand against it." -- Chris Bergeron, The MetroWest Daily News

"Killing Silence: Taking on the Mafia in Sicily" (2004, 50 min.) looks at the historic rise of the Mafia from the waning days of World War II to the Mafia wars of the 1970s and '80s. The film continues with a depiction of the birth of the anti-Mafia movement when the citizens of Palermo, along with some fearless and charismatic leaders, literally took to the streets in outrage following the horrific 1992 Mafia slayings of two leading prosecutors, Giovanni Falcone and Paolo Borsellino. In the film, Sicilians discuss the goal of the anti-Mafia movement: to break the code of silence (omerta) and reclaim their neighborhoods and their culture from Mafia rule. Interviews with the former mayor of Palermo, Leoluca Orlando, and Sicilian-born Cardinal Salvatore Pappalardo, retired bishop of Palermo, reveal the power the Mafia exerted in Sicily. Authors, psychologists and the son of a business owner murdered by the Mafia speak with hope about a new generation willing to discuss and challenge the old ways of life in Mafia-controlled Sicily.

The film, shot on location in Sicily, received funding from the Thomas Tracy Foundation, Boston College, and the Barilla Family. BC alumnus Paul Goudreau and BC Fine Arts faculty member Charles Meyer serve as associate producers. Executive producer is Boston College Theologian Rev. Raymond Helmick, SJ. It had its world premiere at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston in November, 2004. The film also was screened at the Scituate (Mass.) Film Festival in March, 2006.

"Different Drummers: Daring to Make Peace in the MidEast"

"Michalczyk succeeds in deflating conventional stereotypes about Israelis and Muslims. [The] film is informative, even-handed and never didactic. [This] documentarian is just trying to make a better world." --Chris Bergeron, MetroWest Daily News

"Different Drummers: Daring to Make Peace in the MidEast" (2003, 54 min.) is a portrait of several Israeli peacemakers who provoke others to join their voices for peace and justice. Well-known Palestinians briefly reply to their concerns.

"The American media have portrayed Israel as a country scarred by the violence of suicide bombers, demolitions and collective punishments," says Michalczyk. "The human rights issues unfortunately, appear to fade into the background. Despite the atmosphere of 'terror' that hovers over both Palestinian and Israeli, there are Israeli voices heard over the din that cry out for a just and lasting peace."

The film premiered at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston in November, 2003. It also was screened at the 2004 Vancouver International Film Festival and the Scituate (Mass.) Film Festival in 2006.

"South Africa: Beyond a Miracle"

"How nice that South Africa has shaken off its legacy of apartheid and become one less place to worry about. That's not quite the case, as local filmmaker John Michalczyk points out in South Africa: Beyond a Miracle." -- Peter Keough, The Boston Phoenix

"South Africa: Beyond a Miracle" (2001; 55 minutes), chronicles the evolution of South Africa from the tragic years of apartheid to exhilarating elections, and finally to the cautious hopes of building a strong democracy. Shot on location in Johannesburg, Soweto, Pretoria, Capetown, Port Elizabeth, and Durban, the documentary features interviews from witnesses—representing various geographical areas and profession—to the rebirth of South Africa. The interviews were conducted by Boston journalist Clark Booth.

John Michalczyk and BC alumnus Paul Goudreau are the producers. Executive producers are Boston College Theologian Rev. Raymond Helmick, SJ and Dr. Rodney Petersen, executive director of the Boston Theological Institute. Funding for "Beyond a Miracle" was provided by BC, BTI, Martin Fund/Boston Foundation and the Thomas Tracy Family Foundation. Music for the documentary was composed by Vuk Kulenovic, with South African collaboration.

The film had its world premiere at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston in April, 2001 and aired on PBS television station WGBH-Boston in October, 2001. The film was shown in March, 2003 in Paris, France for UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization). The film also was screened at the Scituate (Mass.) Film Festival in March, 2006.

"Prelude to Kosovo: War and Peace in Bosnia and Croatia"

The film "challenges some of the conventional wisdom about the recent horrors there and offers some plausible shreds of hope for reconciliation and a brighter future. Michalczyk also has a background in theology, and it is his clear ecumenical spirit and interest in religious history that animates this informative and worthy film." --John Koch, The Boston Globe

"Prelude to Kosovo: War and Peace in Bosnia and Croatia" (1999; 52 minutes), a film depicting the bitter civil war in the former Yugoslavia, premiered at the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston in September, 1999. Shot on location in Serbia, Croatia and Bosnia, the documentary combines graphic footage and interviews with religious and political figures. The film addresses the ideology of "ethnic cleansing" and the massacres resulting from a nationalist quest for political, cultural and religious domination. The Serbian Orthodox, Bosnian Muslim and Croatian Catholic perspectives are all represented.

The film features original Balkan music by Alexis Gavras, Vedran Smailovic and Vuk Kulenovic. Boston PBS affiliates WGBH and WGBX aired the television premiere of "Prelude to Kosovo" in November, 1999. The film also was screened at the Scituate (Mass.) Film Festival in March, 2006.

"Prelude to Kosovo" was shown as part of the Common Ground Film Festival, a traveling, international film festival designed to recognize the achievements of socially-conscious filmmakers, to strengthen the influence of film and video in transforming conflict, and to move audiences beyond viewing to engagement and dialogue. It was sponsored by Search for Common Ground, a non-governmental, non-profit organization that promotes peaceful and cooperative approaches to conflict resolution. The festival made its debut in Washington, DC in October, 2001, toured college and university campuses across the United States, and concluded in Brussels in September, 2002.

"Out of the Ashes: Northern Ireland's Fragile Peace"

"Out of the Ashes: Northern Ireland's Fragile Peace" (1998; 56 minutes), a documentary chronicling "The Troubles" in Northern Ireland, had its premiere at Boston's Museum of Fine Arts in March, 1998. "Out of the Ashes" offers personal and historical views of the unrest in Northern Ireland from the mid-1960s to present day, with interviews with political and religious leaders, former paramilitaries, and Catholic and Protestant children.

While some prominent personalities such as Sinn Fein President Gerry Adams appear, "the primary focus is on newer voices," according to Michalczyk, "ones seldom heard before: the women who are forced to take up so much of the day-to-day work in family and community life; and the former prisoners, who have undergone a radical change from using violence to pursuing social action. As the peace process goes on these are the people who are truly fostering a long-term change."

The documentary was shot on location in Ireland, specifically in Derry, Belfast and Dublin. The film also features the work of renowned musicians Phil Coulter, Robbie O'Connell, Ken Meltz and Seamus Connolly, music programs director for Boston College's Irish Studies Program. Boston Theological Institute Executive Director Dr. Rodney Petersen and Boston College Theologian Raymond Helmick, SJ, an expert in conflict resolution, served as executive producers of the film. "Out of the Ashes" was funded by Boston College, the Irish-American Partnership and the Boston Theological Institute. The film aired on Boston's PBS affiliate WGBH-TV in July, 1998 and on Los Angeles' PBS affiliate KCET in August, 1998.

□ **"T'M IN HERE" SERIES**

Michalczyk's "T'm in Here" series strives to help integrate the disabled into society by increasing public consciousness and highlighting the normalcy felt by the disabled. These are

personal stories about living with disabilities, often based on scripts co-written by the disabled person.

"Rick's Eyes on the Prize: Running with Team Hoyt"

"They are models of father-and-son devotion. They are inspirations. While their public accomplishments have transformed the Hoyts into high-visibility competitors, Michalczyk's film restores their individuality as unlikely candidates for fame. The film's singular strength comes from Rick Hoyt's 'speaking role' through computer technology that lets him record his feelings about racing with his father, his disability and the public's perception of him."—Chris Bergeron, MetroWest Daily News

"Rick's Eyes on the Prize: Running with Team Hoyt," (2005; 28 min.) depicts the amazing accomplishments of father-son athletic competitors and Boston Marathon fixtures Dick and Rick Hoyt. Rick has cerebral palsy and his father, Dick, runs, swims and bikes races with Rick in tow. Team Hoyt has participated in more than 900 athletic competitions and along the way have changed people's perceptions about disabilities.

In the film, the elder Hoyt recounts how doctors encouraged him to put his son in an institution. Instead, Rick remained at home with his family. He learned to communicate through technology and eventually graduated from college. The Hoyts have completed more than 20 Boston Marathons. They also have competed in the grueling Ironman Triathlon in Hawaii. In the film, Rick communicates the appeal of racing: "People sometimes treat me as if I'm not there, but when I'm racing I don't feel any of that."

Rick's message in the film is this: "If people who watch us compete could just begin to understand that the disabled are normal, that we have rich, productive lives--that's all I ask. That's my prize."

"Team Hoyt," which premiered at Boston College in November, 2005, was co-written by Michalczyk and the Hoyts. Michalczyk and Boston College's Ronald Marsh produced and directed the film. The executive producer is Philip DiMattia, director of BC's Campus School for children and youth with severe disabilities. Funding for "Team Hoyt" was provided by Boston College, the Jacques Salmanowitz Program, the John T. Alden Trust and the Campus School Volunteers.

"Michael's Eagle Eyes"

"[Michalczyk] made a film about a 'day in Michael's life' that portrayed his emergence as a triumph of his willpower and family's loving support. [Nash's mother] credited Michalczyk for 'embracing' her son by making a film that will remind society never to give up on its seemingly disabled members."—Chris Bergeron, MetroWest Daily News

"Michael's Eagle Eyes" (2002; 30 minutes), tells the inspiring journey of Michael Nash, a severely disabled young man who overcame a classification of mental retardation and went on to attend school, communicate with others—and even demonstrate his enjoyment of Shakespeare.

Nash's talents, thoughts, words and knowledge were unlocked from his severely disabled body via innovative technology developed by Boston College professors and utilized at BC's Campus School, a learning center for students with severe/multiple disabilities. The technology, called

EagleEyes, allows people to control computers by moving their eyes or head, enabling them to run educational and entertainment software, spell out messages and navigate the Internet.

"Michael Nash was seen as totally physically and mentally disabled. But his family saw something else in Michael--a vibrant, humorous, intelligent person, bursting with a full range of emotions. Through his own hard work, his family's determination and a revolutionary program at Boston College, Michael proved the experts wrong," said Michalczyk.

Boston College's Ronald Marsh served as the film's co-producer, in conjunction with Pulse Media. The film had its premiere at Boston College in September, 2002.

"Burned: A Phoenix Rising"

"Burned: A Phoenix Rising" (*in production*) is about the healing of burn victims. Co-producer Ron Marsh conducted 20 interviews with people who have had their appearances and lives changed forever due to fire. The interviews were conducted at the Phoenix Society's annual World Burn Congress, the largest gathering of burn survivors in the world. The film shows how those burned evolve from victims to survivors. Michalczyk says he hope the film change can attitudes about burn survivors who often feel marginalized in a society that is so obsessed with external beauty.

"Andrea: A True Gem"

"Andrea: A True Gem" (*in production*) tells the story of a 27-year-old woman, Andrea, with Williams Syndrome, a rare genetic condition which causes medical and developmental problems. Andrea is thriving in the Camphill community in Upstate New York.

□ ***"Celtic Waves: The Flow of Irish Emigration"***

"Celtic Waves: The Flow of Irish Emigration" (2002; 54 minutes), explores the effects of 150 years of emigration trends on the culture of Ireland. Filmed on location in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland over the course of three years, "Celtic Waves" examines four time periods: the 1840s Famine, the turn of the 20th century, the hostile 1950s, and the 1980s and 1990s with the emergence of the 'Celtic Tiger.' "It also examines the socio-political, economic and psychological transformation of a culture," said Michalczyk. "We hear from economists, historians and witnesses to the various trends of emigration."

Brian O'Donovan, host of WGBH's "A Celtic Sojourn," is the film's narrator. "Celtic Waves" was funded by the Thomas Tracy Family Foundation, the Boston Foundation and Boston College. The film premiered at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston in December, 2002. The film also was screened as part of the Boston College Irish Film Series in April, 2003 and the Boston Irish Film Festival in October, 2004.

□ ***"Unexpected Openings: Northern Ireland's Prisoners"***

"The 1998 peace agreement that led to the early release of many of Ulster's political prisoners was not due to a sudden groundswell of goodwill. Rather, says John Michalczyk's engrossing documentary, it stemmed from seeds planted as far back as 1966."--Mike Milliard, Boston Phoenix

"Unexpected Openings: Northern Ireland's Prisoners" (2000; 60 minutes), a documentary that chronicles the evolution of the paramilitaries in Northern Ireland from the times of "The Troubles" through the tenuous peace process, premiered at the Boston Museum of Fine Arts in September, 2000. The film also aired in October, 2000 on WGBH, Boston's PBS affiliate. The film received a New England Emmy Award nomination. In June 2004, it was screened as part of the Common Ground Film Festival held in Jerusalem.

Shot on location, including in the Maze and Crumlin Road prisons, the film tells the stories of former Irish Republican Army, Ulster Defense Association and Ulster Volunteer Force prisoners who have returned to society after 15 to 20 years in prison. In personal narratives, the prisoners—considered "freedom fighters" by some and "terrorists" by others—share reflections of their confinement and their realization that their objectives cannot be obtained by violence. Many of the men are now working in social work, politics and education, and "have become Northern Ireland's hidden resource in the peace process," according to Michalczyk.

The documentary features interviews with government officials, politicians, police, prison chaplains and victims of the violence. Footage from the BBC and Ulster TV is also included. Boston College, the Thomas Tracy Family Foundation, the American Ireland Fund and the Boston Foundation all provided funding for the film. Boston College's Rev. Raymond Helmick, SJ, and BC alumnus Paul Goudreau are co-producers and co-writers.

□ **"December's Dilemma: The Creche, the Dreidel and the Star"**

"December's Dilemma: The Creche, the Dreidel and the Star" (1997; 26 minutes), a documentary that examines contemporary interfaith issues associated with the holidays, premiered at Boston College in December, 1997.

"December's Dilemma," according to Michalczyk, "offers a fresh view of the origins and spirit of the two rich traditions of Christmas and Chanukah. At the same time," he continues, "it reveals the tensions of interfaith marriage, controversies over public displays of religious symbols and isolation during this season of light."

The documentary features interviews with leading Jewish and Catholic theologians, clergy, sociologists, authors and teachers. The film also is comprised of traditional Christmas and Chanukah music as well as archival photographs/footage.

Boston College and the T.B. Murphy Foundation Charitable Trust provided funding for the film. The film made its television premiere on Boston's PBS affiliate WGBH-TV in December, 1997. It aired again on WGBH in December, 1998.

□ **BREAKING BARRIERS TRILOGY**

The following series of films is intended to educate the public and promote an understanding of social injustices.

"The Cross and the Star: Jews, Christians and the Holocaust"

"I was very taken with 'The Cross and the Star.' Not only is it moving and graphic history, it is the most honest and penetrating analysis of Christianity's role in the Holocaust, for good and for ill, that I know of."--Rabbi Harold Kushner, author of When Bad Things Happen to Good People

"The Cross and the Star: Jews, Christians and the Holocaust" (1992; 55 minutes) examines how Christian anti-Semitism may have directly or indirectly paved the way for the Holocaust. The provocative documentary reveals the disheartening echoes of anti-Semitism in the otherwise profound, lyrical gospel of St. John; the sermons of St. Augustine and Martin Luther; and in the voices of the Crusaders and the Spanish Inquisitors. The film argues that the ideological seeds which developed in the Nazi Nuremberg laws and then the death camp at Auschwitz may very well have been sown in Christian dogma many centuries prior to the rise of the Third Reich. The film asks where the foreign governments, the institutional church, and the Christian neighbors were while the Nazi atrocities were being committed.

Extensive archival footage of Nazi Germany is featured, including color photos taken in the early stages of the Third Reich, propaganda films, television clips, and interviews with over 30 Holocaust survivors, scholars, and clergy of Protestant, Catholic, and Jewish backgrounds.

The documentary made its debut at the Coolidge Corner Cinema in Brookline, Mass. in December, 1991. It was aired on Boston Catholic Television in the fall of 1997. The documentary is distributed widely by First Run Features (New York) and used extensively in Holocaust education courses and conferences.

"Of Stars and Shamrocks: Boston's Jews and Irish"

"Local history buffs should tune into 'Of Stars and Shamrocks: Boston's Jews and Irish,' an oft-told, but authoritative, elegantly documented story of Jews and Irish in Boston." --Frederic M. Biddle, The Boston Globe

"Of Stars and Shamrocks: Boston's Jews and Irish" (1995; 55 minutes) examines the historical, religious, social and political aspects of the Irish-Jewish relationship in Boston. It starts out with the two ethnic groups coming from oppression, from pogroms and famine to settle in the Protestant Brahmin Boston of the late 19th and early 20th century. The myth of a land of limitless opportunity and acceptance was shattered by the reality of bigotry, exploitation, exclusion, and discrimination. Although both communities were victims of prejudices of the Brahmins, they, too, harbored their own prejudices against each other, at odds over the competition for jobs, housing, and education. The film documents the bitter rivalries of the 1920s and 30s and views World War II and the Second Vatican Council as turning points in relations. "Of Stars and Shamrocks" focuses as well on the ecumenical efforts to bring the communities together. Interviews with many local academic, political and religious leaders highlight the production.

"Of Stars and Shamrocks" made its television premiere on Massachusetts' PBS affiliates WGBH and WGBX in October, 1995. In 1996 it was nominated for a New England Emmy Award. In 1997, the film aired on Boston Catholic Television. The film also was shown on RTE in Dublin.

"In The Shadow of the Reich: Nazi Medicine"

"Michalczyk...brings a sense of moral outrage and a talent for historical precision to the horror of medical experimentation during the Third Reich...'Nazi Medicine' should be required, if painful, viewing."--Michael Blowen, The Boston Globe

The release of "In The Shadow of the Reich: Nazi Medicine" (1997; 55 minutes) coincided with the 50th Anniversary of the Nuremberg Physicians' Trial (December 1946-August 1947). The

film was shot at the Auschwitz and Majdanek concentration camps and features a score of interviews with the leading physicians, scholars and survivors involved in the study of Nazi medicine, along with a 1995 interview at Auschwitz with a former S.S. doctor, Hans Munch. During the Third Reich, says Michalczyk, the Nazi doctors went from racial theory, to sterilization of the unfit, to euthanasia, and finally arrived at the Final Solution of the Jewish question—genocide. This documentary graphically traces the medical profession's involvement in Nazi Germany and raises questions about medical ethics in contemporary society.

"In the Shadow of the Reich," made its television premiere on PBS affiliates WGBH-TV Boston in April, 1997 and WNET-TV New York in May, 1997. TASH, an international disability advocacy association, presented Michalczyk with its 1997 Media Award in film honoring this documentary. The film also was nominated for a New England Emmy Award.

OTHER SCHOLARLY ENDEAVORS

Publications

An expert on filmmaking, political films, and the use of film as propaganda, Michalczyk has authored the following books: *Italian Political Filmmakers* (1986); *Costa-Gavras: The Political Fiction Film* (1984); and *The French Literary Filmmakers* (1980), among others.

He also edited *Resisters, Rescuers and Refugees: Historical and Ethical Issues* (1997), a collection of essays by internationally renowned scholars on the historical issues of Christian rescue of Jews, socio-political resistance to Nazism, and the plight of the refugee in light of contemporary problems.

Film Consultation

In 2003, Michalczyk served as co-producer of "Walking God's Paths," a multimedia curriculum to stimulate candid dialogue between Jewish and Christian congregations. Produced on behalf of the National Council of Synagogues and the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, the six-session series consists of 15-minute discussion-starting videotapes and a user's guide containing dialogue questions and resources.

Michalczyk served as a consultant on "Rescue in Scandinavia" (1994, 55 minutes), a film by the Foundation for Moral Courage (previously known as Documentaries International Film & Video Foundation) which depicts the rescue of Jews by fellow Scandinavian citizens during the Holocaust. Students from the Boston College Film Studies Program and from Michalczyk's World War II seminar are listed along with Michalczyk in the documentary credits for their archival work and tape logging.

Feature Film Script

Michalczyk developed a feature script completed with screenwriter Edward DiLorenzo for possible production. The script, titled "Anya" (or "Black Diamond"), deals with a young girl coming of age in a coal-mining town in Pennsylvania where she encounters disturbing anti-Semitism, especially in her father.

Other Honors & Activities

In 1992, Michalczyk was awarded the prestigious culture award, Les Palmes Academiques, from the French government for his contributions to, and study of, French culture and language for more than 25 years. Les Palmes Académiques is awarded in three categories and first-time recipients normally receive the honor in the third category, "Commander." However, because Michalczyk's work is "so outstanding and so well-established, and because he has done so much to promote French culture," according to the Office of the French Cultural Attaché in Boston, he was honored in the more prestigious second category of "Officer."

Michalczyk is a member of Boston College's Arts Council, established in 1997 to support and encourage the growth and prominence of dramatic, musical, visual and other art forms on campus. In 2003, he was presented with Boston College Alumni Achievement Award for Arts & Humanities.

In production: *Kenya: Passing the Baton* (2011), a documentary dealing with post-election violence and the hope of a better future with a new Constitution. *Women in Conflict Zones: Victims and Activists* (2012), an international perspective of women caught up on the conflict zones from Northern Ireland to South Africa, and the Balkans to the Mideast.