

PRESS KIT

How About We Stop by Tomaszow for the Day?

(A może byśmy tak... wpadli na dzień do Tomaszowa)

A FILM BY SLAWOMIR GRÜNBERG

The Filmmakers

Director/Co-Producer/Cinematography/: Sławomir Grünberg
Editor: Cezary Kowalczyk
Sound: Piotr Knop
Post-Production: Agata & Jarosław Sterczewski, COLORPRO
Original Score: Wojciech Lemański
Written by: Sławomir Grünberg
Producer: Barbara Grünberg
LOGTV Films Polska
Co-Producers: LOGTV, Ltd.
Length: 57 minutes
Release Date: January 2023

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Film Description

How About We Stop by Tomaszow for the Day? Is a feature-length documentary film by Sławomir Grünberg about Tomaszow Mazowiecki's Jewish community, which before the war had been a vital ethnic group in the city that was second only to the Poles in its size. One of the film's subjects is Allan Chernoff, former CNN journalist and co-author of the book *The Tailors of Tomaszow: A Memoir of Polish Jews*, which he wrote with his mother, Rena Margulies from Tomaszow. Allan considers it his mission to tell Americans about Jewish Tomaszow Mazowiecki, and the camera accompanies him at some of these presentations. The film also features video material that Allan recorded with his mother in 1994 in Tomaszow Mazowiecki and at Treblinka and Auschwitz.



The film's other subjects include the world renowned pianist, Sarah Grunstein (the daughter of Chana Bornstein from Tomaszow), who travels between Sydney and New York , and two siblings – Ewa Korulska, who lives in Switzerland and her brother, computer programmer Daniel Wencel from California – who in their incredibly revelatory journey and search of their family roots are accompanied by Professor Krzysztof Tomasz Witczak. Allan, together with his mother Rena, as well as Ewa and Daniel all “stopped by” Tomaszow for a day in order to confront the stories they heard from their parents and grandparents with today's reality.



With great sadness they realize that there are no signs or memorials commemorating the Jewish presence in the city marking such sites as the synagogue, mikvah, etc. For them, the film represents hope that the memory of their families as well as the entirety of Tomaszow Mazowiecki's Jewish community will not be lost.

Other incredibly important subjects of the film are former Jewish inhabitants of Tomaszow Mazowiecki who survived the holocaust and today live in various corners of the earth. People like Sally Maierowitz or Zlatka Warzecha. The women tell us how they remember Tomaszow from before the war as children as well as immediately after the war. Zlatka, who visited Tomaszow in the 90s, prefers to see it on online maps with her daughter.

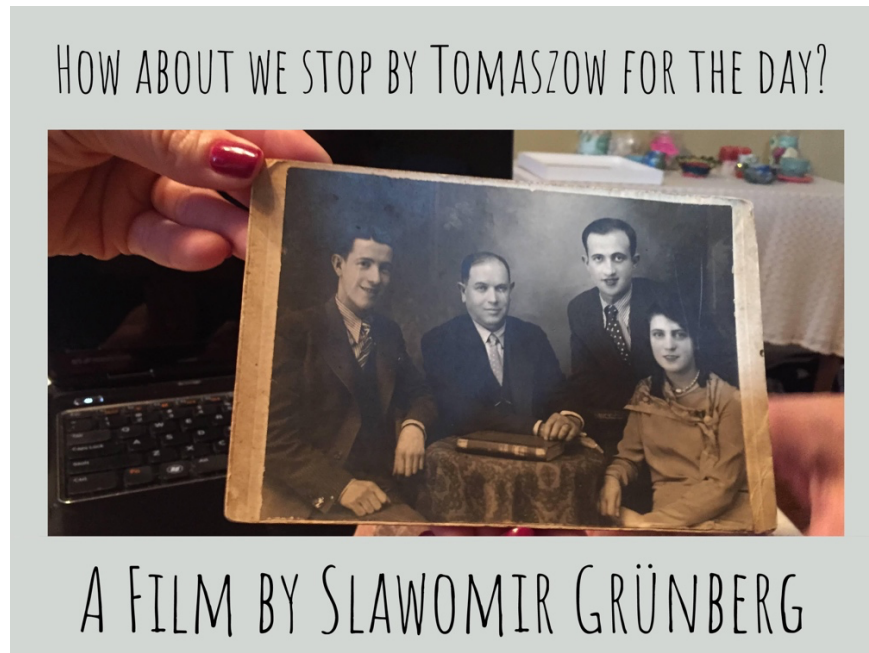


The film has a personal thread as well – about why a Pole from Tomaszow Mazowiecki, Barbara Grünberg, who conceived the film and is its de facto narrator, in the face of all adversities still decided to make the film with her husband Sławomir Grünberg. Seven years later, in an intimate conversation with the film’s director, she answers the questions: Who would be interested in the Jewish history of the city? Why did she want this film to be made? And why is the film so important to her? Barbara also recalls the reaction of a friend to her departure from her hometown in 2016 after marrying Sławomir Grünberg, a Jew.



In 2015, Sławomir Grünberg also “stopped by” Tomaszow for a day to see a theatrical performance of the play *Letters from the Ghetto*, which was produced by Barbara, who was director of the local cultural center at-the-time. The play starred youth from Karina Gora’s “Trzcina” Theater with original set design in a building located within the former ghetto, where

workshops had been operated by slave laborers. Scenes from the play, in which the roles of Jewish slave laborers were performed by youth from Tomaszow schools, have been integrated into the film *How About We Stop by Tomaszow for the Day?*



An incredibly important scene in the film is where Artur Gogel of Lodz, who spends his life in search of traces of former Jewish communities throughout Poland, finds a mark left by a mezuzah – the last trace of Tomaszow’s Jews. Young aficionados from MI POLIN, Helena Czarnek and Aleksander Prugar, make a mold of it in order to later cast it in bronze. Thanks to an expert on the Tomaszow region, Marian Fronczkowski, and curator of the Tomaszow Mazowiecki Museum, Daniel Warzocha, as well as the translator of the Memorial Book of Tomaszow’s Jewish Community, Anna Ciałowicz, the audience has a chance to take part in a stroll along the old Jewish streets of Tomaszow. It is worth noting that Stefan Brajter’s rephotographs prepared for the purposes of the film play a major role in it. Thanks to them, the audience is able to travel nearly a century into the past. The film’s score was composed by Wojciech Lemański, who also authored the score to Sławomir Grünberg’s film *Still Life in Lodz*.



Director's Bio

Slawomir Grünberg is an award-winning director, producer and cinematographer of documentary films. As a graduate of the Directing Department of the Lodz Film School, he emigrated to the USA in 1981 and has since directed and produced over 50 documentaries concerning social, environmental and disability issues. Winner of numerous international awards, including Emmy Award for *School Prayer: A Community at War*. Winner of Guggenheim Foundation Fellowship and the New York Foundation for the Arts and Soros Justice Media Fellowship. Slawomir Grünberg also won the Jan Karski competition for documentaries with "moral courage", as well as DreamCatcher Award for dedication and commitment to documentary filmmaking and is a winner of the prestigious Golden Glan Award. His 2015 movie *"Karski & The Lords of Humanity"* won many prestigious international awards and had theatrical distribution on many continents. In June 2019, Slawomir Grünberg defended his PhD in the Film Arts at the Lodz Film School on "Non-fiction animation - an effective means for breaking the rules of the documentary film". The doctoral dissertation was published as a book in 2022 and the premiere took place on January 11, 2023 at the Museum of Cinematography in Lodz. Slawomir Grünberg is also a subject of two documentary films made by the Polish television TVP: *"Film Tales by Slawek Grünberg"* directed by Krzysztof Tusiewicz and *"At the Beginning it was Hillside Avenue"* directed by Krzysztof Piotrowski and the biographical book *"Slawomir Grünberg - a Man with a Camera"* by Barbara Grünberg. Extensive bio and full filmography with movie trailers and their descriptions can be found at: www.logtv.com



Producer's Bio

Barbara Grünberg, LOGTV Films Polska Foundation – the Polish Studies graduate, culture manager and business coach. Originally from Tomaszow Mazowiecki, where she worked as a teacher and Director of the Municipal Culture Center. She has lived in Mexico since December 2019 and is involved in film production, film distribution and organization of film screenings around the world. The last films she produced are: *"Still Life"*, which became a huge cinema success in the United States, as well as *"Ja, Kaya - a girl from Silesia"* and *"Why don't we... drop by for a day in Tomaszów"*. She likes to spend free time writing; among others she is the author of the book *"Slawomir Grünberg - a Man with a Camera"*.



Allan Chernoff's Bio

Former CNN and CNBC senior correspondent Allan Chernoff is the author of [*The Tailors of Tomaszow*](#), which was written with his mother Rena Margulies Chernoff who was one of the youngest survivors of the Holocaust. Through the eyes of child and teenage survivors, *The Tailors of Tomaszow* delivers a rare, unvarnished, and memorable account of life in Rena's hometown, Tomaszow-Mazowiecki, Poland, before, during, and after World War II. During a three-decade career in journalism, Allan Chernoff won six best reporting awards from the Society of Professional Journalists. His reporting was also recognized with multiple National Headliner Awards and New York Festival Awards, and he was a member of reporting teams honored with DuPont and Peabody Awards. His writing has appeared in numerous publications, including *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Financial Times*, *Fortune*, *Money*, *Newsweek*, *The Guardian*, and *The Forward*. He is CEO of [Chernoff Communications](#), which provides writing, video production, and media strategy services to corporate and not-for-profit organizations. Mr. Chernoff is a graduate of Brown University. He served as an interviewer for the Survivors of the Shoah Visual History Project and is a speaker for the Heritage Testimonies program of the Museum of Jewish Heritage.

LOGTV Films Polska Foundation can be easily called a younger Polish sister of the American foundation: LOGTV, Ltd., an American foundation established in 1999. LOGTV Films Polska Foundation specializes in film production and documentary film distribution, and is also involved in international co-productions. LOGTV Films Polska obtains grants for the promotion of Polish films abroad, grants from the Regional Film Commissions in Poland, e.g., from the Silesian Film Fund for the production of the documentary film "Everything is in Your Hands", which premiered in October 2021. Currently, two other films by LOGTV Films Polska are also in production: "LODZ KALISKA - the Classics Artists of the Absurd" and "Hidden Heritage: A Jewish Awakening in Krakow". An important goal of the Foundation is also broadly understood activity in the field of film education, implemented through the organization of lectures and workshops.
More at: www.logtv.com/polska

LOGTV, Ltd. was founded in 1999 by the acclaimed documentary filmmaker, Slawomir Grünberg, for the production and distribution of documentary films. The films produced by LOGTV, Ltd. were not only shown and awarded at festivals, but also distributed in cinemas and shown on TV around the world. Educational activities are of key importance for LOGTV, Ltd. - the films are screened not only in cinemas and on TV, but also in educational institutions. The company acts as a participant and organizer of seminars and lectures accompanying the screenings of its films.

The short list of awards received by LOGTV, Ltd. and Slawomir Grünberg includes: EMMY Award, Grand Prix Zahav (Gold) Award, CINE Golden Eagle Award, Gold Award: WorldFest, Houston, Regional EMMY Award, LavrAward - the Russian "Oscar"; Grand Prix at the International Historical Film Festival, Warsaw, Poland; Nomination for The Eagles Awards - the Polish "Oscar", Best Polish documentary – "Jewish Motives" at International Film Festival, Warsaw, Poland, Grand Prix at "EKTRAN" Toronto Polish Film Festival, Special Award for the Best Polish Film at the Jewish Motifs International Film Festival, Warsaw, Grand Prix: I Belgrade International Film Festival, Grand Prix: V European Film Festival, Koszalin, An Expression Award: Brazil's Disability International Film Festival, The Audience Award: Best Documentary, Washington Jewish Film Festival, Special Prize: Crossroads of Europe Film Festival, Lublin, Best Documentary on Disability: International Film Festival, Calgary, Canada, Best Documentary in Environment: San Francisco Film Festival, Best Documentary: Vermont International Film Festival, Best of the Festival: Hope and Dreams Film Festival Grand Prix: International Environmental Film Festival, Prague, Czech Republic Coup de Coeur, International Environmental Film Festival, Grenoble. Add to this two Academy Award nominations and five EMMY Award nominations for Slawomir Grünberg as a cinematographer.

The documentaries produced by LOGTV, Ltd. were shown, among others, in Lincoln Center's Walter Reade Theater, The Museum of Modern Art in New York, Museo Memoria y Tolerancia in Mexico City, Johannesburg and Cape Town Holocaust Centers, POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews in Warsaw, as well as at many festivals in USA, Canada, Israel, Iran, Basil, Argentina, Mexico, France, UK, Germany, Uruguay, Korea, Australia, Russia, Poland and other countries. Some of them made their way to permanent collections of film societies, festivals or libraries, including the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C., Museum of Jewish Heritage in New York, Johannesburg Holocaust & Genocide Centre and Yad Vashem in Jerusalem.