



**An award-winning multimedia producer
serving museums, universities,
and other educational organizations**

Multilingual

Multi-Cultural

State-of-the-Art Technology

Programs that Inform and Inspire



AWARDS AND GRANTS

DAAD Fellowship (German Academic Exchange Service), Artist-in-Residence in Berlin, 2002

The Communicator Crystal Award
2002

CINE GOLDEN EAGLE
2001, 1998, and 1997

Berlin International Film Festival
Co-Winner of the Peace Prize, 2001

Jerusalem International Film Festival 2000
First Prize, "Jewish Experience" Category

Karlovy Vari International Film Festival
"Distinguished Selection," 1999

Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture
Fellowship, 1998

Flagstaff International Film Festival
Bronze Award, 1998

INTERCOM
Chicago International Film Festival
Gold Hugo, 1997

National Educational Media Network
Bronze Apple
Educational Adult Audience Category, 1997

Evanston Arts Council
Cultural Fund Grant, 1996

American Association of Museums
First Prize, Arts: Artists Category
Muse Awards, 1995

Illinois Humanities Council
Development and Production Grants, 1991, 1994

**The Association for Persons
with Severe Handicaps, Illinois TASH**
Media Award, 1993

Iowa Humanities Board
Script Writing Grant, 1992

PROJECTS



Bishop Boris Kharalampiev, Age 92

Bishop Boris Kharalampiev recounts how he helped thwart the Nazis' plans to deport Bulgarian Jews. From *The Optimists*

"Everyone is entitled to his own faith. No one should violate the intimate, spiritual life of another.

*That's how I think now,
that's how I have thought in the past,
and if I live any longer,
that's how I'll think then."*

– Bishop Boris Kharalampiev

CLIENTS

The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum
Washington, DC

Chicago Public Schools
Chicago, IL

St. Louis Holocaust Museum and Learning Center
St. Louis, MO

Illinois State Board of Education, Project CHOICES
Naperville, IL

The University of Chicago
Center for Psychiatric Rehabilitation
Tinley Park, IL

Terra Museum of American Art
Chicago, IL

Simon Wiesenthal Center
Los Angeles, CA

Herbert Hoover Presidential Library-Museum
West Branch, IA

B'nai B'rith International Headquarters
and Klutznick National Jewish Museum
Washington, DC

Anti-Defamation League
Foundation for Christian Rescuers
New York, NY

Chicago Academy of Sciences
Chicago, IL

American Refugee Committee
Minneapolis, MN

German Television Stations ZDF, BR,
SDR, WDR, WDF Mainz, Munich, Stuttgart,
and Cologne, Germany

German Ministry of Science and Education
Bonn, Germany

Mercedes Benz
Stuttgart, Germany

Israeli Ministry of Education and Culture
Jerusalem, Israel

THE INCLUSION SERIES



Inclusion in Action

A scene from *Step by Step: Heather's Story*, which charts the journey from "special ed" to regular school. For the Illinois State Board of Education, Project CHOICES

"... this thoughtful, insightful production is [an]... affirmative and practical resource... excellent for staff training and community education."

Booklist

"...an inspiring experience for viewers. [Those]... wanting to 'do it right' will find guidance and inspiration here for teachers, parents, and all concerned."

School Library Journal

"The quality is exceptional, so prepare yourself..."

TASH Newsletter

PROJECTS

COMFORTY MEDIA CONCEPTS AND THE CHAMBON FOUNDATION *THE OPTIMISTS*

Independent documentary on the rescue of Bulgarian Jewry from the Holocaust

Awards

- ♦Berlin International Film Festival, Co-Winner of the Peace Prize, 2001
- ♦Jerusalem International Film Festival 2000, First Prize for "Documenting the Jewish Experience"
- ♦CINE Golden Eagle, 2001
- ♦Best Documentary, Hope and Dreams Film Festival, 2001

Grants

- ♦Maurice Amado Foundation
- ♦Illinois Humanities Council
- ♦Simon Wiesenthal Center
- ♦Israeli Ministry of Trade and Industry

UNITED STATES HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL MUSEUM

Oral Histories

Fifty-four hours of interviews with Bulgarian Jews for archiving and future use in museum exhibitions

ST. LOUIS HOLOCAUST MUSEUM

Five permanent exhibition videos and eight audio programs for this museum dedicated to Holocaust education

TERRA MUSEUM OF AMERICAN ART

Through a Glass, Lightly

A video installation about the lives and work of three, self-taught, Chicago artists who create their art from bottle caps, broken glass, and other urban landscape treasures

- ♦First Prize, American Association of Museums Muse Awards, Arts: Artists Category, 1995

MCDUGAL LITTELL (HOUGHTON MIFFLIN)

Literature in Performance

Project design and management for this anthology of 45 great literary productions on film and video

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO CENTER FOR PSYCHIATRIC REHABILITATION

Leading the Rehabilitation Team

Motivational and training video addressing the needs of those who lead teams helping severely mentally ill people

PROJECTS



Symbols

Archival photo from *Tightening of the Noose*, one of five permanent exhibition videos created for the St. Louis Holocaust Museum and Learning Center. (Courtesy BPK)

"If you were a Jew in Germany in 1933 you awoke one morning to a nightmare. Frenzied mobs across Germany, burned thousands of forbidden books. . . From then on, law after law took away more of your livelihood, your citizenship, your civil rights."

From the opening narration for *Tightening of the Noose*

PROJECTS

ILLINOIS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION, PROJECT CHOICES

www.projectchoices.org. Multimedia Web site and interactive archives. Design, production, and management of an audiovisual Internet resource on inclusion of people with disabilities into school and community life

The Inclusion Series. 1993 Media Award for Contributions to People with Severe Disabilities, Illinois-TASH (The Association for Persons with Severe Handicaps) *Series* programs include:

Step by Step: Heather's Story. Sixty-minute video documenting the journey from special education classroom to inclusion into regular school; an in-depth look at the inclusion process over time

Families, Friends, Futures. Twenty-minute documentary video for general audiences about the need for inclusion of young people with disabilities into both school and community life

Inclusion: Issues for Educators. Twenty-minute documentary video addressing inclusion from the perspective of teachers and administrators

Choices. Thirty-minute documentary video profiling four students with disabilities, ages three to nineteen, included into regular classrooms

HERBERT HOOVER PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY-MUSEUM

The Full Circle: Excerpts from Survivors' Stories. Museum exhibition video interviewing individuals who benefited from Hoover's famine relief efforts during the two World Wars

SIMON WIESENTHAL CENTER

Funding for collection of 100 hours of oral histories of Bulgarian Jews and Christians in Israel, Bulgaria, Spain, and the US; for inclusion in SWC archives

B'NAI B'RITH INTERNATIONAL

Twenty-minute film for the International Conference on the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Rescue of the Bulgarian Jews; photographic contributions to its Klutznick National Jewish Museum exhibition, *Everyman A Hero: The Saving of Bulgarian Jewry*

CITY OF CHICAGO, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, CHICAGO HISPANIC HEALTH COALITION

Voices for Action and Change

Documentary report on the Chicago Hispanic Health Coalition's progress in improving medical care for Hispanic communities

PROJECTS



Hoover Meets Polish Children He Helped Save

Archival photo used in *The Full Circle: Excerpts from Survivors Stories*, a museum exhibition video about President Hoover's famine relief programs produced for the Herbert Hoover Presidential Library-Museum

"It always puzzles me how some people can be so cruel, that they only know to hurt other people, while others are so kind, . . . they will share with you the last little bit that they may have."

From *The Full Circle*. Testimony by Dr. Danuta Hutchins, whose family was saved from starvation by Hoover's program when she was a child in post-WWII Poland

PROJECTS

COMFORTY MEDIA CONCEPTS AND THE COLLECTED IMAGE

In the Shadow of Memory.

One hour documentary on the Catholic Czech town of Lidice destroyed by Nazis during World War II. In association with the Chambon Foundation, Los Angeles, CA

- ♦The Communicator Award
- ♦CINE Golden Eagle
- ♦Karlovy Vary Film Festival Distinguished Selection
- ♦Jerusalem Film Festival

ILLINOIS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Everykid Campaign. Public awareness campaign about the benefits of including students with disabilities into regular classrooms

GERMAN STATE TELEVISION

Medical Technology, or the End of Sympathy?

Documentary about the excesses of technology in health care; part one of a nine-segment documentary series, *The Mute Dialogue*, about man and technology. Broadcast on German TV Stations NDR, BR, WDF, SWF, HR, and Swiss TV Station SR

MERCEDES BENZ

The O-Bahn System

Thirty-minute instructional film promoting a new bus-to-rails public transportation system

ISRAELI MINISTRIES OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND EDUCATION

The Jerusalem International Book Fair and Prize for Literature

Series of ten, four-minute promotional spots in six languages for foreign TV stations, plus an eleven-minute report in English

GERMAN TELEVISION STATION ZDF AND UFA STUDIOS

Keine Gondel für die Leiche (Caviar and Lentils)

Script for ninety-minute television comedy

TERRABOOKS

www.terrabooks.com

www.henrysfarm.com

Web sites for publisher of materials about sustainable agriculture and environmental preservation

PROJECTS



In Search of Reconciliation

Jerri Zbiral, daughter of a survivor, meets a German delegation of peace educators. From *In the Shadow of Memory: Legacies of Lidice*, about the 50th anniversary of the destruction of the Czech Catholic Village of Lidice

"It's very important to distinguish between people, between Germans. . . . It's very difficult for you to distinguish, I can imagine, but it would be very important."

From *In the Shadow of Memory*; observations by Beate Hoffman, writer and peace activist

CLIENT COMMENTS

"I recommend Jacky and Lisa Comforty for the quality of their work, for their complete dedication to a project and their utmost professionalism."

Roberta Gray Katz, Curator of Education, Terra Museum of American Art

"Mr. and Mrs. Comforty have filled a gap in the field of Holocaust history. The oral histories they have conducted on Bulgarian Jewry are extremely impressive and complete. . . . this film will be of great value to the public..."

Genya Markon, Director of Photo Archives, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

"[Comforty Media Concepts']... video is the feature presentation in our Humanitarian Gallery. . . .The power of The Full Circle cannot be overstated. I have watched visitors of all ages sit, watch, and listen, barely moving a muscle. . . .History, quite literally, comes alive for the museum visitors...."

Timothy Walsh, Acting Director, Herbert Hoover Library-Museum

" . . . this overwhelming success [of the Inclusion Series] is due to the Comfortys' sensitivity and creative talents as filmmakers. Motivational power is one of their greatest strengths, and it makes its mark in all of their films . . . they give of themselves to their projects. . . . It is also a result of the precision with which they craft each film. Videos we do together are never cliched, slick or superficial. Without fail, each video works extremely effectively at both the dramatic and the educational levels."

Barbara B. Toney, Public Information Specialist, the Illinois State Board of Education's Project CHOICES

PROJECTS



Mr. Imagination and His Bottle Cap Hat

From *Through A Glass, Lightly*, an exhibit video about three Chicago outsider artists and the transformative power of art. For the Terra Museum of American Art and the Openlands Project and Foundation

"Mr. Imagination is always using his imagination . . . see[ing] a chair with one leg, taking that chair home and not really giving it life, but bringing it back, saving it from the garbage so it won't be tossed away."
— Mr. Imagination, interviewed in *Through a Glass, Lightly*

BIOGRAPHY

Jacky Comforty, Comforty Media Concepts' president and founder, has worked for 25 years in the film and video industries of the United States, Germany, and Israel. Fluent in four languages, he brings to his company a unique amalgam of experience, talents, and skills.

Jacky opened Comforty Media Concepts in Tel Aviv, Israel, in 1987 and in the Chicago area in 1991. He works in a range of genres -- from documentaries to dramatic films and comedies.

Jacky is known for the effective, sensitive, interviewing techniques he has developed for oral histories and other projects requiring on-camera discussions that are genuine, meaningful, and in-depth. His sharp analytical style, knowledge of world history and cultures, and expertise in multimedia technologies provide a powerful foundation for achieving creative goals.

Jacky offers customized, optimal solutions for all clients, whether they require video programs, audiovisual components for museum installations or exhibitions, interactive Web sites, or other communications formats. Educated at Tel Aviv and Ben-Gurion Universities in film and television and classical history, Jacky speaks Hebrew, German, and Bulgarian, as well as English.

The Comforty Media Concepts team is comprised of award winning developers and production artists. It has been painstakingly built over the years and has proven itself successful time and time again.

PROJECTS



Rachamim Comforty and His Two Wives

Bulgarian Jews saved from the Holocaust. From *The Optimists*, an award-winning documentary film about the survival of the Bulgarian Jewry

"The Optimists is a wonderful film. The title refers not only to a Bulgarian jazz band, but to how the audience feels after watching such a moving testament to human decency."

– Annette Insdorf, author of *Indelible Shadows: Film and the Holocaust*

"Spellbinding . . . a message of inspiration and hope."

– Bruce Ingrahm, *Pioneer Press*

"A miraculous, sharp movie."

– Patrick Z. McGavin, *Chicago Tribune*

PROJECTS



Music from the Front: WW I

A photo postcard sent by the soldier on the right to his sweetheart in Bulgaria in 1917. From *The Optimists*

"This is a film that celebrates the human spirit. It offers hope that people of different races and religions can learn to live together in peace."

– Leora Eren Frucht, *Jerusalem Post*



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Photo Courtesy: Alan Teller

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