

"World Festival's Dark Lullabies a memorable and haunting documentary"

By MYRON GALLOWAY

World Film Festival

Now that the awards have been handed out at Serge Losique's Ninth World Film Festival and the five cinemas at the Parisian have returned to showing regular commercial releases, a few final comments on some of the more memorable films shown during the last days of the festival. (Look for review of the final film *Creator*. in these pages when it opens its commercial run at a local theatre in the near future.) Most of the films were crowded into the festival's first five days. Of the films I saw over the last five days, perhaps the most powerful was Irene Lilienheim Angelico's 87 minute documentary, **Dark Lullabies**, which is a thought provoking study of the impact of the Holocaust, not on its survivors, but on their children, born after the war, and now in their 20s and 30s: as well as young Germans of the same generation, some of whose parents were actually involved in perpetrating many of the atrocities that took place in the camps.

Montrealer Irene Lilienheim Angelico, who wrote the script and co-produced and directed it with Abbey Jack Neidik, is herself the daughter of two survivors (Henry and Lydia Lilienheim) both of whom were separated shortly after their marriage, interned in Nazi concentration camps and were the only members of their families to survive.

Like many other survivors, they did not discuss their experiences with their daughter as she grew up and it was not until 30 years later, when her father showed her a manuscript he had written about his experiences, that her need to know more became almost an obsession.

She attended a gathering of Jewish Holocaust Survivors in Israel and met other children of survivors her own age, and she traveled to Germany where she spoke to the offspring of Germans, some of whom are today members of the Neo-Nazi Youth movement, who refuse to believe the Holocaust took place. And finally she visited Dachau, entering the very gates her parents had entered, under very different circumstances, 40 years before.

Dark Lullabies is a straightforward account of her trip back to the past, her conversations with the people she met, both young and old, and her attempts to understand how it was possible that what took place actually did take place.

Meticulously researched and splendidly put together, Lilienheim and Neidik have created an honest, deeply moving and memorably haunting film that should get the widest possible exposure. It's one of the few films in this year's festival I shall remember long after most of the others, even the better ones, have been forgotten.