

VIDEO REVIEWS

FAST SCANS— Foreign & Indie Films

By Jeff T. Dick, Davenport, IA

Seed of Sarah

color. 26 min. Andrea Weiss, dist. by Cinema Guild, 130 Madison Ave., 2d fl., New York, NY 10016-7038; 212-685-6242. 1998; 2000 release. ISBN 0-7815-0812-6. \$195 (Rental: \$50). Public performance.

HOLOCAUST STUDIES

These two short films approach the Holocaust in unique and unusual ways. Steve Sisgold, the writer and producer of *Holocaust in My Body*, is an American Jewish baby boomer who seeks to understand his dark preoccupation with the Holocaust by visiting European Holocaust sites accompanied by his friend Gay Hendricks, a well-known therapist and author who stresses body-centered psychotherapy. The film is thus an examination of both the continuing presence of the Holocaust and an attempt by modern psychology to find a means of grappling with its enormity. The film ably captures Sisgold and Hendricks on their travels to a Jewish cemetery, a Nazi death camp, and a museum where Sisgold, while examining a striking photograph, notes his physical similarities to one of the doomed. Sisgold employs the mind/body awareness techniques advocated by Hendricks to cope with the emotional turmoil he experiences.

Seed of Sarah tells the story of Judith Magyar Isaacson, a Hungarian Jew who survived the concentration camps. We see family photographs of her prewar existence, which provide a contrast to the utter hell she would experience. Isaacson also revisits the camps where so many perished. What makes the film truly unique, however, is the use of dramatic excerpts from a one-woman electronic opera of Isaacson's life that adds dimension to the story. Appealing best to adults who already have some understanding of the topic, both of these ably done films are appropriate for libraries with strong Holocaust holdings. *Holocaust in My Body* should also be considered for libraries with strong psychology collections.—Paul Kaplan, Lake Villa Dist. Lib., IL