

Postmodern Productions presents

“The Young Rebels” – Voices of the Hungarian Revolution



“We knew that whatever happens, we were probably going to die.”

Frank Hasenfratz

“Being a Revolutionary was a hell of a lot easier than being a refugee.”

Anna Porter

“The Young Rebels”

Produced with the participation of **OMNI Television**

Produced and Directed by **Susan Papp**

Director of Photography **Michael Grippo**

Additional Photography **Larry Carey**

Edited by **Oliver Manton**

Written by **Allen Abel**



Half a century ago, the people of Hungary mounted an armed rebellion against Soviet occupation. It was a revolution forged by teen-agers -- and crushed by the ruthless power of the Red Army.

Thirty-seven thousand of those defeated dreamers would become the first refugees to be welcomed en masse by the Canadian people, an act of compassion that changed them, and this country, forever.

Today, the once-young rebels form a tightly-knit community notable for its success in the arts, journalism, and business. But their hearts still hold a history of sacrifice and pain.

Filmed on location in Budapest and Toronto, and filled with passionate interviews with notable Canadian “Fifty-Sixers,” the 48-minute film is a deeply personal memoir of defiance, betrayal, escape and renewal.



Our Story:

They traded their textbooks for rifles, and dared to defy a merciless superpower.

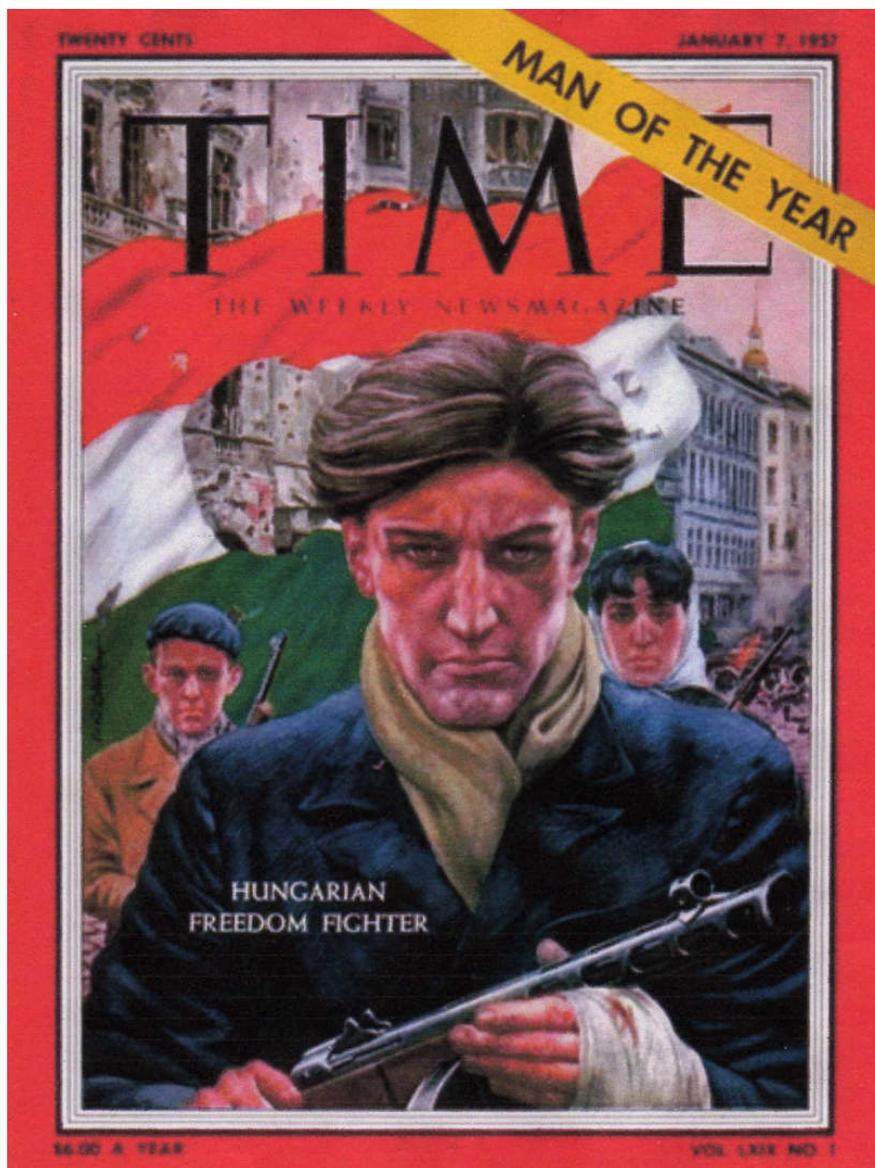
It was the fall of 1956, and for thousands of high school and college students in Hungary, a decade of Soviet repression had become unbearable. Their protests began peacefully, but soon escalated into open rebellion along the beautiful boulevards of Budapest.

Laszlo De Roth was only 15 when the revolution started. Eager for a chance to serve the cause of freedom, he volunteered to go door to door, collecting empty wine and water bottles for use as Molotov cocktails. George Jonas was a radio journalist fed up with Communist propaganda.

Anna Porter was 11, a student-turned-rifleman whose bedroom was blown to bits by a Soviet tank. And Frank Hasenfratz was a junior officer in the Hungarian Army who knew that transferring his allegiance to the side of the rebels meant certain execution if the revolution failed.

Following 12 days of freedom, as the Kremlin crushed the brave but futile uprising, leaving thousands of corpses in the streets, these four Young Rebels -- and two hundred thousand other Hungarians -- would embark on a desperate and sometimes farcical trek to the Austrian border and, eventually, to new and prosperous lives in distant Canada.

“The Young Rebels” is their own story, in their own words -- a stirring and poignant exposition of lives turned upside down, and of a new country discovering the depths of its own compassion.



The Filmmakers:

Susan Papp --Director/Producer

Susan M. Papp's most recent work for **OMNI Television** was as producer/director of the 2006 biographical documentary "The Black-Bearded Barbarian -- Mackay of Taiwan," an exploration of the life of 19th-century Canadian missionary George Leslie Mackay.

Ms. Papp earned a Master of Arts in North American Social History at York University in Toronto in 1985. Ms. Papp began her career in journalism at the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation's Radio Drama department in 1981 as a historical researcher. In 1985, she worked in the national newsroom as researcher and program organizer.

In 1988, Ms. Papp became a current affairs producer in the regional news department at the CBC. One of the televised documentaries she produced was entitled *The Half Million Dollar Man*. It told the story of one Canadian addict who went to the United States and manipulated his way in and out of seven addiction treatment centres in a matter of twenty months. The story brought about the resignation of the Minister of Health, and within months, caused the Government of Ontario to change its out-of-country payment policies for addiction treatment. It won two of the most prestigious awards in Canada: The Michener Award and The Best Investigative Award of the Canadian Journalists Association.

Susan Papp developed a profile and reputation as an on-camera current affairs reporter specializing in social issues for CBC TV. In 1991, she was chosen to work as field producer for *The Journal*, and its subsequent retitled version *Prime Time News*. In 1993, while on leave of absence from the CBC, Ms. Papp founded her own television production company, Postmodern Productions. Her first independently produced film entitled *Debris of War* is an hour long documentary on the trauma of the war in the former Yugoslavia. Its Canadian premiere was February 1994. In 1998, *Debris of War* was awarded the Canadian Ethnic Journalists and Writers Award for Best Documentary. The documentary is being distributed internationally by Great North Releasing. In June 1995, Susan Papp left her position at the CBC and has devoted all her energies to independent television production.

Postmodern Productions has developed strategic alliances with respected entertainment companies in Los Angeles, Winnipeg, and Budapest, Hungary. In 1998, Ms. Papp produced and directed *Hundred Something -- The World of the Oldest Old*, a one-hour documentary for Discovery Channel. In 1999, she produced and directed *Monuments in Miniature*, an arts documentary for Bravo! She has served on many film festival juries, including the International Emmy Awards.

Susan Papp teaches in the School of Journalism at Ryerson University. She is Adjunct Scholar at the Multicultural History Society of Ontario.

Allen Abel -- Writer

Allen Abel may have worked on a greater number and a greater variety of television documentary and current-affairs productions than anyone else in Canada over the past 20 years. He has served as creator, host, narrator, writer, producer, field director or narration writer of at least 400 separate items in that time, ranging from feature-length documentaries for the National Film Board, CBC, Discovery Channel, History Channel and National Geographic Television to shorter feature items for Hockey Night In Canada, CBC News and CBC Sports.

In addition to his television work, he has been a columnist for the National Post and Saturday Night, the Beijing bureau chief of the Toronto *Globe and Mail*, a regular contributor to Sports Illustrated, Maclean's, Canadian Geographic, and En Route, and has written four books, including *Flatbush Odyssey -- A Journey Through the Heart of Brooklyn*, which the *Washington Post* called "one of the best travelogues about anywhere, ever."

From 1986 to 1995, Abel was the on-air presenter, writer, co-director and producer or co-producer of approximately 150 documentaries for *The Journal* and *Prime Time News* at CBC-TV. These ranged from spot news coverage of the Romanian Revolution and Tian'anmen Square to full-hour documentaries on crime and punishment in the Soviet Union, the burning of the Amazon rain forest, the history of photography, and the 300th anniversary of Newton's Law of Gravity.

From 1988 to 2003, he served the same functions at CBC Sports as creator, producer, director, writer and on-camera host of multi-episode travelogue/adventure series connected to nine Olympic and Commonwealth Games, under the titles "Abel's Korea," "Abel's New Zealand," "Abel's Outback," etc. At *Hockey Night in Canada* from 1996 to 2003, Abel produced, wrote and presented on-camera an assortment of feature stories during Saturday night broadcasts.

Michael Grippo -- Director of Photography

Michael is an Award winning cinematographer whose 20 year career has taken him on worldwide journeys to film some of the most exotic locations on the planet. Places such as South Africa, Sierra Leone, Guinea, Kenya, Somalia, throughout Europe, Indo China and the Middle East and the winter dessert in the High Arctic.

He specializes in documentary, commercials and dramatic production for broadcast television. He has recorded historical events and compelling social issue documentaries, risked his life in Bosnia to cover important world events and has filmed over 60 network documentaries on five continents.

The Young Rebels:

Frank Hasenfratz

After coming to Canada in 1957, Frank Hasenfratz completed his engineering studies, then founded a one-man machine tooling company in his basement that has grown into a multi-billion dollar business. His company, Linamar, specializing in precision metallic components for the automobile industry, now employs more than 11,000 workers on three continents and has delivered 25% annual compounded growth for the past fifteen years.

Anna Porter

Renowned literary publisher Anna Porter has worked with dozens of Canada's most prominent authors and poets since the 1960s. She is the founder of Key Porter Books and the majority owner of Doubleday Canada, has been named an Officer of the Order of Canada, and is the recipient of four honorary degrees.

Laszlo De Roth

Dr. Laszlo De Roth is a retired professor of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Montreal and one of Quebec's most respected educators. His latest book is entitled *Enseigner en couleurs* (Teaching in Colors), a collection of essays on dynamic instruction. He is a past winner of the prestigious *Prix d'excellence Canada de l'enseignement universitaire*.

George Jonas

George Jonas is one of Canada's most respected journalists and authors, a powerful voice of reason and wisdom on national and international affairs. He is the author of 14 books, including the 1984 work entitled *Vengeance*, which became the basis for the 2005 Steven Spielberg film *Munich*. His most recent book, published in 2007, is *Reflections on Islam*.