



PRIX EUROPA 2020 Best European TV Movie of the Year

The Windermere Children Die Kinder von Windermere

Comments from the Jury Group:

“Definitely a touching story. Wonderful young actors.”

“Great ensemble, great theme, very good directing. Sensitive, decent but not disturbing.”

“A really gripping story, beautifully told and extremely warm and humanistic. This story gives hope, told with a twinkle in the eye, making the childrens stories, their traumas and their losses manageable for the viewer. I liked the end with the real persons: it gave depth to the severe backdrop to the story told.”

“Exquisite opening credit, excellent music, captivating topic.”

“The story is strong in itself and the narrative is succesful in presenting it in an emotional but not excessive manner. The child actors are simply amazing.”

“It is risky having such a young lead cast - but they all delivered their complex characters like fully trained and experienced professionals.”

A summer's night in 1945. A coachload of children are in transit from Carlisle airport to the Calgarth Estate in Lake Windermere, a remote and picturesque corner of the English countryside. They are child survivors of the Nazi Holocaust that has all but wiped out Europe's Jews and, for these particular children, their entire families too.

They carry only the clothes they wear and a few meagre possessions, along with the physical and psychological scars of all they have suffered. They do not know what awaits them in Britain and naturally they are fearful: they don't speak English and, having spent many years living in death camps, have missed out on a proper education. But the children are also excited, for the war is over and there is always hope that the future will be kinder to them than the past.

The children were brought to the UK courtesy of the Jewish philanthropist Leonard Montefiore, who had been travelling in Europe in the immediate aftermath of the war. He saw first-hand the devastation of Jewish communities and the lost children who were the living casualties of the Nazi regime. The British government granted up to 1,000 children a refuge, a place to rehabilitate and grow strong again. 300 of these children were brought to live in Lake Windermere for four months, and for many of them came the hope that the UK might become their future home.

Congratulations to:

Submitting organisation:	Zweites Deutsches Fernsehen - ZDF
Contact:	Gudrun Borenberg – Filmfestivals@zdf.de
Author:	Simon Block
Director:	Michael Samuels
Camera:	Wojciech Szepel
Commissioning editors:	Wolfgang Feindt, Claus Wunn
Producers:	Leanne Klein, Eleanor Greene, Bernd von Fehrn, Tim Rostock
Production companies:	Wall to Wall Media, Warner Bros. ITVP Germany
Co-producer:	Northern Ireland Screen
Length:	87 min
Total budget:	€ 3,335,000
Original language:	English
First broadcast by:	BBC and ZDF
Date of first broadcast:	27 February 2020, 21:00