

# *The House on August Street*

*A film by Ayelet Barqur*



## **AWARDS**

**Second Prize for Best Documentary** – Haifa International Film Festival 2007

**Grand Prix Award for Documentary** – CIRCOM Regional, European Association of Regional Television 2008

## **INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL SCREENINGS**

**Official Selection** – Boston Jewish Film Festival 2007

**Official Selection** – International Leipzig Festival for Documentary & Animated Film 2007

**Official Selection** – "Saviors on the Screen" JCC Manhattan 2008

**Official Selection** – Isratim Israeli Film Festival, Paris, France 2008

**Official Selection** – Toronto Jewish Film Festival 2008

**Official Selection** – Berlin Jewish Film Festival 2008

**Official Selection** – Los Angeles Jewish Film Festival 2008

**Official Selection** – San Joaquin Film Festival 2008

Public Performance Screenings & DVD Sales:



The National Center  
for Jewish Film

### **The National Center for Jewish Film**

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## THE HOUSE ON AUGUST STREET - SYNOPSIS

**The House on August Street** tells the remarkable, unknown story of Beate Berger, a German Jew who single-handedly and with great resolve and vision rescued over 100 children during the Holocaust, smuggling them from Berlin to Palestine in the 1930s. Berger, founder of the House of Love Children's Home (*Beith Ahawah Kinderheim*) Berlin's first home for poor Jewish children, was quick to recognize the Nazi threat and resolved to protect the 120 children under her care on "August Street." Raising the funds and making all the clandestine arrangements herself, Berger brought groups of children into Palestine from Germany from 1934 to 1939. The *Beit Ahava* orphanage in Haifa, founded by Berger to house her charges, remains open today.

With **The House on August Street**, award-winning director Ayelet Bargur pays tribute to Beate Berger, her great-aunt. Bargur's extensive research into her aunt's life yielded the 2006 book *Ahawah Heisst Liebe* on which the film is based and which resurrected the extraordinary story of this courageous and visionary woman. Bargur's innovative documentary weaves together rare archival film materials and interviews with Berger's "children" with elegantly presented monologues based on Berger's letters brought to life by the acclaimed German actress Naomi Krauss. These poignant, illuminating scenes were filmed on location in the now-empty Berlin building that was once a house of love.

## PRODUCTION CREDITS

Director:	<b>Ayelet Bargur</b>
Based on Book	
<i>Ahawah Heisst Liebe</i> by:	<b>Ayelet Bargur</b>
Producers:	<b>Edna Kowarsky, Elinor Kowarsky, Eden Productions</b>
Cinematographer:	<b>Shai Levy</b>
Monologues Cinematographer:	<b>Dudu Itzhaki</b>
Editor:	<b>Einat Glaser-Zarhin</b>
Original Music:	<b>Jonathan Bar-Giora</b>
Set Designer:	<b>Sandra Kavelly</b>
Sound:	<b>Michael Emet</b>
Actress Playing Beate Berger:	<b>Naomi Krauss</b>

## PRODUCTION DETAILS

English Title:	<b>The House on August Street</b>
Hebrew Title:	<b>Beit Ahawah</b>
Country:	<b>Israel</b>
Year of Production:	<b>2007</b>
Running Time:	<b>63 minutes</b>
Language:	<b>Hebrew and German with English subtitles</b>
Original Format:	<b>DVCAM</b>
Screening Format:	<b>BetaSP, 3X4 Letter Box</b>

## **CRITICAL PRAISE FOR *THE HOUSE ON AUGUST STREET***

**“Immeasurable love and emotion, without a drop of sentimentality nor nostalgic schmaltz. A meticulously forged work of cinema, both modest and humble, moving and inspiring.”**

-Yehuda Stav, *Yediot Aharonot*, Israel's largest daily newspaper

**“Breathtaking moments for actor Naomi Krauss as Beate Berger. With chilling clarity and without the slightest hint of misrepresentation, she shares with the viewer the process whereby she realized that Germany is no longer a place for Jewish children.”**

-*Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, German daily newspaper

**“A stirring, unique compilation of human portraits that portrays the painful past, in the present.”**

-Noam Buxbaum, *Ha'aretz Online*, Israel

**“Exceptionally moving.”**

-Yael Shuv, *Time Out Israel*

**“A most impressive way to exhibit the prevailing ambiance in Germany at the rise of the Nazis... Extremely convincing dramatic moments are created through the imaginary dialogue between the director and her great aunt. ”**

-*Berliner Zeitung*, German daily newspaper

**“Highly recommended.”**

- Yon Feder, *Ynet Israel*

## **HAIFA INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL JURY STATEMENT 2007 When Awarding Second Prize for Best Documentary**

“This valuable historical document tells with great expertise and effectiveness the moving story of the children of *Beit Ahavah* in Berlin and the way they were brought to Israel. The director has made excellent use of varied cinematic tools to create a work which is important, artistically satisfying and engrossing.”

## **TELEVISION BROADCASTS**

- RBB, Germany
- MDR, Germany
- The Second Authority for Television and Radio, Channel 2, Israel



## ABOUT THE DIRECTOR AYELET BARGUR

**Ayelet Bargur** was born in 1969 in San Francisco and has lived in Israel since 1970. Bargur studied at the Camera Obscura School of Art in Tel Aviv and has an MA in disciplinary arts from Tel Aviv University. From 1995 to 1997 she was a grant recipient from the America Israel Cultural Foundation. During that time she produced her second short film **A Good Place to Be**, which screened at the Cannes Film Festival.



The director of both feature and documentary films, Bargur is the recipient of several significant film awards. She has traveled and studied extensively, presenting her films worldwide. Bargur's films often reflect a personal point of view. Her award-winning feature film **As if Nothing Happened**, about an Israeli family waiting to hear if their son has been killed in a bus bombing, and the documentary film **At the End of the Day**, about the death of four commanders in the same Israeli Defense Force unit within a 22-month period, are drawn from her own experiences.

In 2003 Bargur was awarded a prestigious year-long grant from the Berlin Artists-in-Residence program (Berliner Künstlerprogramm) of the DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service). Invited by the Academy of Arts in Berlin, Bargur spent the summer of 2004 as a guest of the 7th International Summer Academy in Rüdersdorf near Berlin. While in Berlin, Bargur made the short film **An Israeli in Berlin** the first of several projects exploring issues of identity and her own family history. Her 2006 book *Ahawah Heisst Liebe* on which **The House on August Street** is based and which documents the life and work of her great-aunt Beate Berger, was published by DTV, one of the largest publishing houses in Germany.

## SELECTED FILMOGRAPHY

**The House on August Street** (2007)

**Day by Day** (2004)

**So Near so Far** (2003)

**As if Nothing Happened** (2000)

- WINNER FIRST PRIZE Jerusalem International Film Festival
- NOMINATED BEST TV DRAMA Israeli Academy Award
- WINNER BEST ACTRESS Israel Academy Awards
- WINNER AUDIENCE CHOICE Israel Film Festival Los Angeles

**At the End of the Day** (1999)