

NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN 2021



AS YOU MAY WELL RECALL FROM OUR JUNE NEWSLETTER, LOCKDOWN PREVENTED US FROM HOSTING OUR LIVE SYNAGOGUE EVENTS FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS, SO HOLOCAUST LEARNING UK COMMISSIONED **OUT OF THE DARKNESS: JANINE'S STORY** ('JANINE'S STORY'), A DOCUFILM WHICH WAS LAUNCHED TO SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES IN AUTUMN TERM 2020 AND MADE FREELY AVAILABLE UNTIL THE END OF MAY 2021.



The response to **Janine's Story** was extraordinary and exceeded even our greatest hopes! 275 schools registered over 60,000 students to view [although not all were able to screen within the screening window due to the challenges of the pandemic].

Accolades poured in. Click [here](#) to read the fulsome praise for Janine's Story from Karen Pollock, CBE, Chief Executive of Holocaust Educational Trust and Olivia Marks-Woldman, OBE, Chief Executive Holocaust Memorial Day Trust, together with testimonials from teachers, students and documentary film-makers.

WHAT DID TEACHERS THINK OF OUT OF THE DARKNESS: JANINE'S STORY?

Since our earliest days as Northwood Holocaust Memorial Day Events, we have evaluated our Events year on year. Each year, we have formally measured teachers' responses and comments as well as taken feedback from our volunteer facilitators, helpers, and co-ordinators to help us shape and improve future developments.

2021 was no exception. We were delighted and extremely grateful to Dr Jennifer Mindell, Professor of Public Health, University College London, who agreed in an honorary and personal capacity, to conduct an independent teacher evaluation of Janine's Story. Teachers were asked to complete an on-line survey that examined all aspects of the

Docufilm, from ease of booking and screening, to content, to the emotional impact upon and engagement from students, to whether they would recommend Janine's Story to a colleague or fellow teacher.

Jenny's findings were quite extraordinary. The most common response to every single question asked was excellent (the highest rating possible)!

Overleaf is a selection of the areas covered by the formal evaluation and accompanying teachers' comments.

For the full formal evaluation please click [here](#).

SO HOW WELL DID TEACHERS RATE THEIR STUDENTS' LEARNING FROM OUT OF THE DARKNESS: JANINE'S STORY?

The schools who registered for viewing **Janine's Story** were drawn from across the spectrum of education: they were based throughout the UK (with one or two beyond UK shores) and included state schools, academies, independent schools, faith schools. School students of all abilities, all backgrounds and all knowledge bases were represented.

82%

of teachers rated the accessibility of the information about the Holocaust as presented in the Docufilm as excellent.

92%

of teachers rated as excellent or good how well the information in the Docufilm was assimilated by their students.

98%

of teachers rated as excellent or good the docufilm's capacity to hold students' attention.

All of these scores were particularly remarkable given the challenges and disruption of lockdown education. The evaluation yielded no areas of concern whatsoever, but we noted that "only" 55% of teachers rated as excellent the extent to which the Docufilm enabled students to make links from the Holocaust to subsequent genocides. Our future offerings will bear this in mind and seek to improve on this fundamental HLUK objective.

"I have been surprised by just how gripped the vast majority of learners have been. I had some additional time with my year 10 form when we returned to school and showed them. They can be very chatty but they watched with increasing attention and afterwards asked if we could watch more docufilms like that. I was impressed"

BUT WAS JANINE'S STORY TOO UPSETTING FOR STUDENTS?

We have always wanted students to understand the Holocaust emotionally as well as intellectually, but at the same time, we know that causing significant emotional distress is counterproductive to students' learning, so we have always strived to achieve the right balance. With these concerns in mind, part of the survey focused in detail on the emotional impact on students of **Janine's Story** and the ages of students for whom it is suitable.

"It was excellent, my students watched in silence and asked to continue it the following lesson, they asked good questions after and were clearly affected by the film"

On a scale of 1-10

- Approximately two-thirds of the teachers gave the Docufilm the maximum score of 10, or of 9, for positive emotional impact
- All but one of the remaining teachers rated the emotional impact as positive, (with scores of 6, 7 or 8).
- Most teachers felt that the Docufilm was suitable for students in years 9 – 13, (our predominant target age-range). Less than 10% of teachers thought **Janine's Story** was suitable for those in school year 7.

"A fantastic and engaging resource which is set at an appropriate level for KS3 and KS4 students exploring the Holocaust"

OVERALL

The most telling metric of all is the Net Promoter Score: the extent to which respondents are likely to recommend **Janine's Story** to a colleague or fellow teacher.

The Net Promoter Score yields a score between – 100% and +100%. A score greater than 0% is generally considered to be good...a score of over +50% is considered excellent....

In 2021, teachers gave **Out of the Darkness: Janine's Story** a Net Promoter Score of

98%!

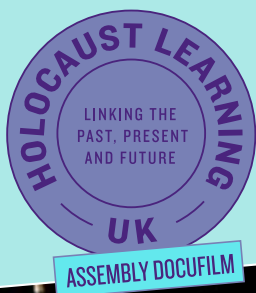
"I would highly recommend the film to others and hope that it is available for schools for the future. It was a really valuable and eye-opening resource"

HOLOCAUST LEARNING UK: 2022 PROGRAMME



We have been so thrilled and encouraged with this amazing feedback that we are delighted to announce the re-launch of

OUT OF THE DARKNESS: JANINE'S STORY SCREENING FROM 17TH JANUARY TO 31ST MAY 2022



NEW FOR 2022 OUT OF THE DARKNESS: ASSEMBLY FILM

Holocaust Learning UK is proud to announce the launch of a brand new, 15-minute film for school assemblies for use on or around Holocaust Memorial Day (27th January) 2022. It includes the testimonies of Holocaust Survivors and provides a powerful and engaging memorial experience suitable for students aged 11 – 18.



OUT OF THE DARKNESS: ASSEMBLY FILM SCREENING FROM 17TH JANUARY TO 17TH FEBRUARY 2022.

AS BEFORE, THESE DOCUFILMS ARE MADE AVAILABLE TO SCHOOLS FREE OF CHARGE.
PLEASE CLICK [HERE](#) TO MAKE A DONATION TO HELP US CONTINUE OUR IMPORTANT EDUCATIONAL WORK.

If anyone of you missed Janine's Story, or would like to watch it again, please email us at contact@holocaustlearninguk.org