

Focus on Film

Winter Hunt

Drama
Holocaust

Wednesday, May 8, 2019 @ 4:00 p.m.

Director: Astrid Schult, 2017 Germany

Running time: 74 minutes, German with English subtitles

This film is an intense psychological thriller about memory, responsibility and justice.

Three characters occupy all but a minute or so of the film which is shot almost entirely in a few rooms of a German country house.

A young German woman plans to assassinate an accused but acquitted elderly former SS camp guard. The guard's daughter is his protector and companion. He attempts to convince the novice assassin that he committed no crimes, as he claims to have only worked in the office. She is not convinced and her reason for feeling so will

be revealed. Every explanation of what happened in that October of 1944 sounds possible until a new twist comes along with shocking revelations.

The title of the movie is about a painting in the old man's home. It depicts a single man, hunched over and walking alone. Is he the hunter or the hunted? The conclusion of the film leaves questions about the meaning of revenge and what behaviors and bigotry can family ties absolve.

Reviewed by William Handelman

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