

DOCUMENTARY ABOUT 1939 NAZI RALLY IN NEW YORK
WINS AN OSCAR

323

A PRO-HITLER RALLY THAT TOOK PLACE INSIDE NEW YORK'S MADISON
SQUARE GARDEN IS THE SUBJECT OF A SHORT DOCUMENTARY THAT WAS
NOMINATED FOR AND **WON AN OSCAR (Best Live Action Short Film)** AT THE
92ND ACADEMY AWARDS ON FEB 9, 2020



Feb. 22, 2019

ABOUT THE MOVIE

In 1939, six and a half months before Adolf Hitler invaded Poland, 20,000 Americans rallied in New York's Madison Square Garden **to celebrate the rise of Nazism** - an event largely forgotten from American history. **A NIGHT AT THE GARDEN**, made entirely from archival footage filmed that night, transports audiences to this chilling gathering and shines a light on the power of demagoguery and anti-Semitism in the United States.



Marshall Curry

The movie was directed and edited by Marshall Curry and was supported and released by Field of Vision. **The film was nominated for and won a 2019 Academy Award for Best Documentary Short**; it was also an official selection at the Sundance Film Festival and was part of a special screening and panel discussion at the New York Film Festival. It was released on 22 Alamo Theater screens across the country and at The IFC Center in NYC.

Below are two videos of the Movie and one verification of the movie's accuracy in reporting the facts by SNOPEs.

To view these videos: copy and paste the below links into your browser.

<https://www.snopes.com/fact-check/nazi-rally-madison-square-garden/> (Verification by Snopes)

A Night At The Garden <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eq9yst4W-6c> Actual Full Video

A Night At The Garden <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r4zRZ7XLYSA> Narrated Edition

DOCUMENTARY ABOUT THE ACTUAL RALLY



This Feb. 20, 1939 file photo shows Fritz Kuhn, second from left, national leader of the German-American Bund, and Gustave Elmer, third from left, national director of Organization for the Bund, join other uniformed Bundsmen in a last-minute discussion of the Bund rally, at New York's Madison Square Garden. The pro-Hitler rally that took place 80 years ago this week at New York's Madison Square Garden is the subject of a short documentary that's up for an Oscar this Sunday, Feb. 24, 2019. The film directed by Marshall Curry is called "A Night at the Garden."

Unimaginable to most Americans, the pro-Hitler rally that took place 80 years ago this week inside New York's Madison Square Garden is the subject of a short documentary that's up for an Oscar. *(It won the Oscar)*

The seven-minute film shows Fritz Kuhn, the leader of the pro-Nazi German American Bund, decrying "the Jewish-controlled press" and demanding "a socially just, white, gentile-ruled United States."

Documentary filmmaker Marshall Curry said that after learning about the 1939 Bund rally, which he could barely believe had happened, he asked a researcher friend to help him locate archival footage of the Feb. 20, 1939, event.

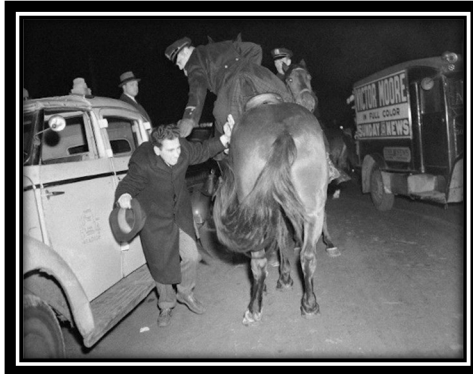


Madison Square Garden

"Once he pulled it all together and I saw it, I thought it was very surreal and frightening, **and I wanted to find a way to make something of it and share it with the world," Curry said.**

Curry sees parallels to 2019 when Republican President Donald Trump called news organizations enemies of the people and anti-Jewish attacks are increasing.

The anniversary of the rally comes as New York police report a 72 percent increase in hate crimes in the city over the past year, with anti-Semitic crimes making up almost two-thirds of the total of 55.



In "A Night at the Garden," mounted police officers hold back protesters outside the Garden, about a mile north of the arena's present-day location and where the marquee advertises "Pro American Rally" along with a New York Rangers hockey game the following night.



Inside, people in suits and dresses cheer as Kuhn calls for "gentile-controlled labor unions, free from Jewish Moscow-directed domination."



Kuhn's speech was interrupted by a Jewish-American man named Isadore Greenbaum who charged the stage in protest. Police and the vigilante forces quickly tackled him and proceeded to beat him up on stage. The crowd cheered as they threw him off stage, pulling his pants down in the process. Police charged Greenbaum with disorderly conduct and gave him a \$25 fine, **about \$450 in 2019 dollars.**



Curry said he considered using a narrator but "ultimately almost on a whim, I edited it together as if it were a verified documentary where you dropped the audience into this rally and you had to figure out what was going on. I found that it was more compelling that way."

Daniel Greene, a Northwestern University historian who curated an exhibit at the U.S. Holocaust Museum on Americans' response to the Holocaust, said the Madison Square Garden rally was one of the most important events in the relatively short life of the German American Bund, which aimed to build support for a fascist America.

"You have about 20,000 people inside, and some people estimate that there were about 100,000 protesters on the street outside," Greene said.



Kuhn's rhetoric, Greene said, was "full of stereotypical lies about Jews, anti-Semitic lies like Jews are secretly controlling international finance, Jews are secretly controlling the American media."

At the time the rally took place, Hitler was completing his sixth concentration camp; and protesters—many of them Jewish Americans—called attention to the fact that what was happening in Germany could happen in the U.S. "Don't wait for the concentration camps—Act now!" proclaimed fliers advertising the protest. Outside the rally, people carried signs with messages like "Smash Anti-Semitism" and "Give me a gas mask, I can't stand the smell of Nazis."



In some cases, police responded to the protesters with violent attacks. In one instance, a protester escaped a mounted police officer who'd grabbed him by punching his horse in the face. As the rally broke up that night, some protesters were able to slip by police and punch departing Nazis in the face.

THE GERMAN-AMERICAN BUND ORGANIZATION

("BUND" IS GERMAN FOR "FEDERATION")



Flag of the German American Bund



Fritz Julius Kuhn

On March 19, 1936, the German American Bund was established as a follow-up organization for the Friends of New Germany in Buffalo, New York.

The Bund elected a German-born American citizen Fritz Julius Kuhn as its leader. Kuhn was a veteran of the Bavarian infantry during World War I and an Alter Kämpfer (old fighter) of the Nazi Party who, in 1934, was granted American citizenship. Kuhn was initially effective as a leader and was able to unite the organization and expand its membership but came to be seen simply as an incompetent swindler and liar.

The German American Bund, a pro-Nazi organization for Americans of German descent, demonized Jews and Communists and dreamed of a fascist America. Fritz Kuhn, the Bund's leader, tried to portray himself as the "American führer," though he never received the support from the Nazi Party in Germany that he desired.

The Bund's membership probably never exceeded 25,000, yet its pro-Nazi propaganda and mass demonstrations sometimes reached large crowds. The Bund even established more than a dozen summer camps around the United States to indoctrinate German American children. Campers wore uniforms of the Hitler Youth and carried Nazi banners.

At its height, the Bund organized a rally at New York's Madison Square Garden on February 20, 1939, that drew more than 20,000 attendees who booed any mention of President Franklin D. Roosevelt and cheered "Heil Hitler!" Thousands of anti-Nazi protesters filled streets outside the arena. When the prominent journalist Dorothy Thompson loudly shared her opinion that the Bund leader was spewing "bunk," she was escorted out of the arena by uniformed Bund supporters.

Banners at the rally *had messages like "Stop Jewish Domination of Christian Americans" and "Wake Up America. Smash Jewish Communism."* When the Bund's national leader, Fritz Kuhn, gave his closing speech, he referred to President Franklin Delano Roosevelt as "Rosenfield," and Manhattan District Attorney Thomas Dewey as "Thomas Jewey."

"We, with American ideals, demand that our government shall be returned to the American people who founded it," declared Kuhn, a naturalized American who lost his citizenship during World War II. "If you ask what we are actively fighting for under our charter: First, a socially just, white, Gentile-ruled United States. Second, Gentile-controlled labor unions, free from Jewish Moscow-directed domination."

After the rally, New York District Attorney Thomas Dewey arrested Kuhn on charges of larceny and forgery. A New York tax investigation determined that Kuhn had embezzled \$14,000 from the Bund. The Bund did not seek to have Kuhn prosecuted, operating on the principle (Führerprinzip), that the leader had absolute power. However, New York City's district attorney prosecuted him in an attempt to cripple the Bund. On December 5, 1939, Kuhn was sentenced to two and a half to five years in prison for tax evasion and embezzlement. After the war, Kuhn was deported to Germany; he died there unceremoniously in 1951.

Following Kuhn's arrest, the Bund slowly withered away, until its dissolution on 8 December 1941, after the attack on Pearl Harbor. After the United States declared war on Germany, federal officials began to arrest Bund officials. Kuhn's successor Gerhard Kunze was captured in Mexico and sentenced to 15 years of prison for "subversive activities". Twenty-four other officers were convicted of conspiracy to violate the 1940 Selective Service Act and served prison time. Some other Bund leaders committed suicide before the FBI caught up with them. Although some Bund members had their naturalization revoked and some spent time in prison camps, most members were left alone.



A sad sight indeed! "Heil Hitler" as American Flags pass

George Washington Birthday Exercises

**Mass Demonstration
For True Americanism**
AT
Madison Square Garden

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 1939

at 8 p. m.

TO ALL AMERICAN PATRIOTS:

The increasingly violent, malicious and poisonous attempts to silence and cripple the German American Bund by lying press and radio propaganda, by attempted riots and coercion of hall-owners, by strikes to force dismissal of Bund-Members from their employment and by fraudulent indictments and convictions, (remember the "Camp Siegfried" Case at Riverhead, which ended in a reversal of the convictions by higher courts and the complete exoneration of the defendants!), prove that the communistic and other subversive, Jewish-Marxistic powers directing these persecutions are in mortal fear of the Bund's reaching and enlightening those Americans still in the dark concerning the red scourge! These persecutions prove definitely that the German American Bund IS the most outspoken and uncompromising and therefore the most EFFECTIVE Opponent of all Atheistic Subversion in the Country today!

The Bund is an Organization of American Citizens unequivocally committed to the Defense of the Flag, Constitution and Sovereignty of these United States and therefore to the Defense of the right and duty to proportionate representation in the conduct of the Nation of the more than 100,000,000 Aryan (WHITE GENTILE) Americans, as being the ONLY means of preserving the Independence and the Christian Culture and Civilization of this our Country!

The usual means of informing the Public NOT being at our disposal, more and more MASS DEMONSTRATIONS are essential to awaken the Nation! The Bund's packed meetings and the record attendance of 35,000 to 40,000 people at its affairs at Camp Siegfried and Camp Nordland prove it to be constantly growing and gaining recognition and support!

We cordially invite you to participate at our PRO-AMERICAN RALLY and George Washington Birthday Exercises at Madison Square Garden on Monday, February 20th, 1939, at 8 P. M. The Doors will be opened at 7 P. M. General Admission 40c, reserved seats 75c and \$1.10, Tax incl. Tickets obtainable at 178 East 85th St., Room 6, New York City, BUTTERFIELD 8-8347, 8-8797.

Free America!

German American Bund

P. O. BOX No. 75, STATION K, NEW YORK, N. Y.



WW2 GERMAN AMERICAN BUND RING, CIRCA 1936

FOX NEWS REJECTS AD FOR OSCAR-NOMINATED DOCUMENTARY



The add was targeted to air during Sean Hannity's show, doubling as promotion for the Oscar-nominated documentary short *A Night at the Garden*, which recounts the 1939 Nazi rally at New York City's Madison Square Garden. The Hollywood Reporter reports that a Fox News national ad sales representative told the distributor's media-buying agency that the ad was "not appropriate for our audience."

DISCLAIMER

**PLEASE UNDERSTAND THAT EVEN THOUGH THIS INFORMATION
HAS BEEN TAKEN FROM WHAT APPEARS TO BE AUTHENTIC WEBSITES
I CANNOT ENSURE THAT ALL THE DATA IN THIS ARTICLE IS ACCURATE AND CORRECT.**