**DEFIANCE**

The film *Defiance* is based on a real life and is inspired by Nechama Tec’s book Defiance: The bielski partisans. The film was written, directed and produced by Edward Zwick alongside a few other people. It stars Daniel Craig as Tuvia and Liev Screiber as Zus. The movie didn’t win any awards, but it was nominated for an Oscan for Best Original Score ( for its soundtrack ) and for a Golden Globe Award for Best Original Score ( again for the sountrack).

The film is set in Belarus beginning with the year 1941. It was filmed in three months in Lithuania, just across the border from Belarus. The shooting locations were just 150 to 200 kilometres from the places that the events actually transpired, so it lends some authenticity to the film; some extras, were locals, that were descendants of the actual families depicted.

The film is about a few brothers in Belarus during the systematic killing of Jews by the Nazi Einsatzgruppen. Among those not killed or forcefully moved to ghettoes, concentration camps or extermination camps are the Polish Jewish Bielski Brothers: Tuvia, Zus, Asael and Aron. Their parents were killed by the local police under orders from the German occupiers. They flee to Naliboki Forest, vowing to take revenge for the deaths of their parents and other Jews. Not long after that they find other Jews hiding in the forests from the police and decide to take them in and protect them. They kill the police chief that is responsible for their parents’ death and then form a camp in the woods to shelter more of the Jews persecuted by the Germans. They stage more raids on the Nazis, but casualties force Tuvia to stop, to protect the ones he’s sheltering. Zus disagrees and joins a local group of Soviet partisans. After a long winter of illness, starvation, mutiny and constant fear, the camp learns that the Germans are about to launch a massive attack, forcing them to flee. When they finally cross a massive marsh with only one casualty, they are met by a massive German platoon led by a Panzer III tank. Just as they are about to be killed, the enemy force is assaulted from the rear by the partisans led by Zus. Text on the screen then tells us how that they survived until the end of the war with a total of 1,200 Jews.

I really recommend this film for anyone that likes underdog stories and the war film genre. It has a strong message of brotherhood, unity, helping the weak, never giving up, and that good always wins in one way or another.