

The Saved

I'm opposed to this film. The history of the Barneveld group is an exception. A hundred thousand Dutch Jews were murdered, a group of seven hundred survived. I think you should be looking at that large group, not at the small group that was saved'. The documentary THE SAVED, by Paul Cohen and Oeke Hoogendijk, opens with these words, spoken

shows dozens of files of harrowing letters pleading for a place on the list. At the end of 1942 and beginning of 1943, the seven hundred 'chosen ones' were interned in a chateau in Barneveld. The documentary shows how they tried to carry on their old lives there. In September 1943, nevertheless, the group was transported to Westerbork and a year later to Theresienstadt. Almost all the Barnevelders, with the exception of a few of the more elderly, survived the war.

In THE SAVED the stories of nine Barnevelders bring this piece of history to life. One of those interviewed said of life at the chateau: "In any event, it was a happy time." The Barnevelders look back nostalgically at the house concerts, love-making in the Biezebosje, the revue. But they also speak of their isolation and their anxiety about the future. When, nevertheless, they were eventually transported to Westerbork and Theresienstadt, they saw trains departing for the extermination camps, sometimes carrying friends or members of their families. Still they were exempt bis auf weiteres. Finally the film shows how painful it is for the Barnevelders to come to terms with their survival. Some of them are still struggling with the fact that they, as the elite at that time, formed an exception.

Paul Cohen and Oeke Hoogendijk made THE SAVED from the perspective of the second generation. It came about as the result of Oeke Hoogendijk's research into the war years of her mother, who was a member of the Barneveld group.

straight into the camera by one of those interviewed. This film tells the story, unknown until now, of the 'Barneveld group'. When, in 1942, the round up of the Jews was in full force, there was reason to believe that a group of about seven hundred were going to escape unscathed. While others were dragged out of their homes and sent to the extermination camps, they found shelter in a chateau in Barneveld. All the 'Barnevelders' would survive the war and afterwards they felt obliged to remain silent about their privileged history. In this documentary they tell their story for the first time.

The Barneveld group owed its existence to an initiative by Mr. K.J. Frederiks, who at that time was the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Home Affairs. He was given permission by the German authorities to make a list of 'deserving Dutch Jews'. Together with their families they would be exempt from deportation to the concentration camps. Scientists, artists, doctors and industrialists found a much-coveted place on the 'Frederiks list'. But hundreds were refused. The film

