

# Peterborough Arts Cinema

Films that make you think

Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> January at 7:30 pm

**Denial** (2016) UK

PG-13 | 1h 49min

**Director**; Mick Jackson

**Stars**; Rachel Weisz, Tom Wilkinson, Timothy Spall

**DENIAL** recounts Deborah E. Lipstadt's (Academy Award (R) winner Rachel Weisz) legal battle for historical truth against David Irving (Cannes Award winner Timothy Spall), who accused her of libel when she declared him a Holocaust denier. In the English legal system, the burden of proof is on the accused, therefore it was up to Lipstadt and her legal team to prove the essential truth that the Holocaust occurred.



April 20, 2015 **Idiot's Delight in Holocaust Denial**

By [Michael Curtis](#)

Holocaust Memorial Day is commemorated at different times in different countries. On April 19 the UK held a Holocaust memorial event marking the anniversary of the liberation of the Bergen-Belsen camp by the British Army. It is therefore doubly horrifying that a group of more than a hundred persons a few days before in London, displayed their indifference to the slaughter of Jews, the ultimate catastrophe of the 20th century.

Many of this infamous group, mostly but not all British, had been or were still members of the neo-Nazi parties, the National Front and British National Party. One of the organizers carried the book, *Tomorrow we Live*, written by Oswald Mosley, the leader of the old Fascist Party. Another was the 71-year-old former national organizer of the NF, and another was the former editor of the NF publications. One was the former national organizer for the BNP, who had been jailed for three months for attacking with a beer bottle a black man who was scarred for life. One was a BNP councilor in East London, and two were NF candidates for the UK Parliament. Almost all denied the existence of gas chambers in Auschwitz, and all disputed the officially accepted number of Jews murdered. Yet with their extraordinary emphasis on the power and might of Jews, which could attract support for Jews, perhaps they were all secret Zionist agents?

The star speaker at the secret meeting was a 57-year-old Spanish man named Pedro Varela who had been arrested in Austria in 1992 for praising Hitler. Varela is an equal opportunity hater. He viewed gay parents as members of a "monster family," and children of mixed races as "blackos." But his main contribution to knowledge was about Jews. He measured his words by saying, "They say Jews have the gold in the world and the power in the press and they are going to rule the world." Jews must be countered, "we should be as smart and clever, as are the children of darkness." Varela refused to say directly that he denied the Holocaust. He was careful because of a law to come into force in Spain that prevented him from answering the question.

The other main speaker was Mark Weber, the American director of the Institute for Historical Review, based in Newport Beach, California. He was belligerently crystal clear about the fight against Jews. He told his fellow travellers that they were engaged in a great global struggle. On one side was a self-assured and diabolical power (you know who) that feels ordained to rule over others. On the other side were all other nations, indeed humanity itself. In addition he warned fellow countrymen. "The Jewish connection covers all areas and reaches all levels... in reality, the Jewish hold on American life is far more dangerous. Nothing is more important, he said, than to identify, counter, and break this Jewish power."

In Australia, Lady Renouf, a former model, has defended David Irving, the notorious Holocaust denier, and political figures in the country have called Israel a racist and apartheid state or called for a boycott of Israel. In France, Jean-Marie Le Pen, fined in February 2008 for instilling doubt about Nazi persecution of resisters and Jews, still is unwilling to accept the reality of the Holocaust. In the Middle East, Omar Hilmi al-Ghoul, writing on April 18, 2015 in the official Palestinian daily paper, discounted the number of Jews murdered, though he did not deny the Holocaust occurred.

According to an ADL 2014 Survey, 35 per cent of those surveyed in 100 countries said they had never heard of the Holocaust and 32 per cent believe it is a myth or has been greatly exaggerated. Even if one agrees that censorship is undesirable, the difficult question arises again. Should the Holocaust deniers, not intellectually respectable and historically fraudulent, be banned or punished? France has censored the comedian Dieudonne for his spreading of racism, anti-Semitism, and Holocaust denial, and has emphasized the urgency to deal with manifestations of anti-Semitism. The secret meeting in London, expounding the *Protocol of the Elders of Anti-Semitism*, shows that all societies should engage in that urgent task.

Edited by Alex O'Reilly



