

A film by Apo W. Bazidi

Sunday, May 22nd
Castro Theatre
San Francisco

The Ruth Brinker Story

Food is Love

BURN A LIGHT PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS "THE RUTH BRINKER STORY"
IN ASSOCIATION WITH PROJECT OPEN HAND PRODUCED BY APO W. BAZIDI GORAN ZANETI
MUSIC BY VICTORIA BEITS EDITED BY MATTHIEU BRAJOT DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY CASSIDY FRIEDMAN
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER AMOR SANTIAGO PAUL HEPFER DIRECTED BY APO W. BAZIDI



ABOUT PROJECT OPEN HAND

FOUNDER

Ruth Brinker

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Google

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Helene York, *Culinary Institute of America*

EXECUTIVE TEAM

Paul Hepfer, *Chief Executive Officer*

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Herbert Dong, *VP, Finance and Information Technology*

Ana Ayala, *VP, Programs*

Jonathan Jump, *VP, Operations*

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The Ruth Brinker Story

Food is Love

May 22nd, 2022
Castro Theater,
San Francisco



AGENDA

DAYTIME SCREENINGS

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| 2:00pm | The Ruth Brinker Story |
| 3:00pm | The Ruth Brinker Story/
The Times of Harvey Milk
double feature |

EVENING PREMIERE

- | | |
|---------------|------------------------|
| 6:00pm | Red Carpet Experience |
| 6:40pm | Paul Hepfer Welcome |
| 6:45pm | The Ruth Brinker Story |
| 7:08pm | Q&A with Panel |
| 7:30pm | Mezzanine After Party |

FILM SYNOPSIS



At the age of 63, retired food-service worker Ruth Brinker became a pioneer of HIV care in her community and would become a legend among San Franciscans. The AIDS epidemic hit San Francisco the hardest and created a wave of fear and uncertainty that left many victims feeling hopeless and alone. Brinker, a woman whose deep compassion became a source of strength for others struggling to cope with the times, began cooking meals in her kitchen to deliver to her neighbors who were too ill to take care of themselves. Her goal was to not only provide meals but to also revitalize the city's sense of community and spend time with HIV/AIDS patients to end the isolation they experienced. Providing meals with love became the hallmark of her mission. The work of Brinker and her growing team of volunteers led to Project Open Hand, the largest provider of nutrition to the HIV/AIDS community with sister organizations across the country. Ruth Brinker's legacy carries on today as Project Open Hand has once again joined the frontlines in facing the crisis of the COVID-19 pandemic.

ABOUT THE FILMMAKER



APO BAZIDI

FOUNDER & CEO

Burn A Light Productions

Apo W. Bazidi was born in Eastern Turkey to Kurdish parents. He grew up amid the social injustices and inequality that beset his community. These experiences drove his desire to become a storyteller so he could shed light on these important issues. After high school, he immigrated to the United States and went on to graduate with a Bachelor of Arts in Film & Television Production from the University of Southern California in 2011.

Apo's films are primarily concerned with social issues and the importance of global cultural interactions. His feature film, *Resistance is Life*, won eight festival awards including six for Best Documentary Feature. Apo believes in making a positive change through visual storytelling. His lifelong motto is to "be creative and inspire".

PRINCIPAL CREDITS

WRITER & DIRECTOR:
APO W. BAZIDI

PRODUCER:
APO W. BAZIDI
GORAN ZANETI

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER:
AMOR SANTIAGO
PAUL HEPFER

FEATURING:
RUTH BRINKER

INTERVIEWEE
FERNANDO CASTILLO
PAUL HEPFER
TOM NOLAN
WENDY COHEN

CAST:
SANDY KOVTUN
as RUTH BRINKER
MATTHIEU BRAJOT
as ILL PATIENT 1
WILLIAM R. CONRAD
as ILL PATIENT 2
RICHARD A. KOHL
as ILL PATIENT 3

CINEMATOGRAPHER:
CASSIDY FRIEDMAN

EDITOR:
MATTHIEU BRAJOT

COMPOSER & SOUND
VICTORIA BEITS

ASSOCIATE PRODUCER:
MARCUS TOLERO
MARK GOPEZ

CONSULTING PRODUCER:
JASON ROSENFELD

COLOR & VFX:
AKAM REZAAE

MAKEUP & COSTUME:
ETHEL REDDY

ARCHIVAL RESEARCH &
ASSISTANT EDITOR:
IZABEL JUSINO

REFERENCE ARCHIVIST
ISAAC FELLMAN

ADDITIONAL
PHOTOGRAPHY:
GORAN ZANETI

DIGITIZING SERVICES
DIGITAL REVOLUTION

ARCHIVAL FOOTAGE:

CBS NEWS

NBC NEWS

KPIX 5 NEWS

KRON 4 NEWS

KTVU 2 NEWS

KGO-TV 7 NEWS

WLBT 3 NEWS

KTSW WASHINGTON D.C.

ABC NEWS WASHINGTON

MACY'S SATELLITE NETWORK

BAY AREA VIDEO COALITION

PROJECT OPEN HAND

ODDBALL FILMS

PRELINGER ARCHIVES

GLBT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

CHARLES CYBERSKI VIDEOTAPES (1994-03)

LOU PERICA FILMS (1991-14)

ZANE BLANEY COLLECTION (2016-18)

SAN FRANCISCO GAY MEN'S CHORUS RECORDS (2009-01)

HAROLD T. O'NEAL (2002-03)

CHURCHILL FILMS - LEONARD GREENBERG

UNITED STATES INFORMATION AGENCY

NATIONAL ARCHIVES

RICHARD BOYLAN

R.B. HOPPER - ASSOCIATE PHOTOGRAPHER GEORGE E.P

CHANNEL 9 NEWS

ARCHIVAL PHOTO:

LISA BRINKER

FERNANDO CASTILLO

WENDY COHEN

SANDY KOVTUN

MARIO SURIANI

ALECHTRON
THERESE FRARE
ASSOCIATED PRESS -
RICK MAIMAN
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
SAN FRANCISCO
TIM CLARY

ADDITIONAL
ARCHIVAL MATERIAL:

ACT UP, FDA
ACTION - GRAN FURY
SAN FRANCISCO
CHRONICLE
SAN FRANCISCO EXAMINER,
1987
NEW YORK TIMES
NEW YORK TIMES STYLE
NEW YORK POST
TIME MAGAZINE
BAY AREA REPORTER
AIDS GROVE MEMORIAL
SACRAMENTO BEE
GRETCHEN KELLS
SAN FRANCISCO AIDS
FOUNDATION
MEALTIMES
THE NOE VALLEY VOICE
TOORAK TIMES
RIVERS ORAM PRESS
NEWS OF THE WORLD
THE SUN

NORTH MISSION NEWS, 1989
SAN FRANCISCO SENTINEL,
1988 - -DANIEL WILSON
BEE SAN FRANCISCO
BUREAU
CYNTHIA LAIRD
ALLEN WHITE
CAROLINE DREWE

SPECIAL THANKS:
ANGELO CIAFFI
BESRAYE BAZIDI
SAL BAZIDI
LISA BRINKER
NITA JUELICH
LIMO REZAAE
LISA GELFAND
BECCA VERSHBOW
WILLIAM R. CONRAD
MIKE RADLICBK
PAUL PETREQUIN
ELLEN BIALIK
RAQUEL LOPEZ
AIDS MEMORIAL GROVE SF
RUSSELL ROHAL
PAUL LUDAHL
RICHARD A. KOHL

ALL THE DEDICATED
VOLUNTEERS OF
PROJECT OPEN HAND

THANK YOU TO OUR EVENT SPONSORS



HOT
COOKIE





The mission of Project Open Hand is to improve health outcomes and quality of life by providing nutritious meals to the sick and vulnerable, caring for and educating our community.

We deliver more than 1 million meals every year by preparing 2,500 nutritious meals and 200 bags of healthy groceries daily to help sustain our clients as they battle serious illnesses, isolation, or the health challenges of aging. We serve the City and County of San Francisco and Alameda County with offices in San Francisco and Oakland, engaging more than 125 volunteers daily to nourish our community.

@ProjectOpenHand



openhand.org