

## EUROPA EUROPA - For Discussion (Ages 15+)

### SYNOPSIS

Based on the 1989 autobiography of Solomon Perel, the film portrays the story of a boy who tries to hide he is Jewish by joining the Hitler Youth.

### PRE-VIEWING

1. Watch the trailer on the [Homepage](#) of the website.
  - What impression does this trailer give you of the film?
  - What do you think will be the main themes in the film?
2. Read this article about Solomon Perel and one of the girls whose true stories are featured in the film.
  - <http://digitalassets.ushmm.org/photoarchives/detail.aspx?id=1066341>

Make a note of questions you would like to ask about Solomon Perel's story or the history around it. With others in your group, try to find answers to these questions. Your facilitator will direct you to some useful websites.

3. From the trailer, the DVD cover and what you've seen and read so far, what are your expectations of this film?

### DURING VIEWING

Try to think about these questions as you watch:

1. What do you think is the filmmakers' purpose in telling this story?
2. How accurate is the portrayal of the historical period in which the film is set? How do you know?
3. How do the filmmakers show the audience that the story is from Solomon's point of view?

### AFTER VIEWING

1. Read this article and discuss your responses in your group. Identify two or three key points that have deepened your reflections on this film in particular or on your ideas about representing the Holocaust on film.
  - [http://www.nytimes.com/1992/02/19/movies/a-life-stranger-than-the-movie-europa-europa-based-on-it.html?\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/1992/02/19/movies/a-life-stranger-than-the-movie-europa-europa-based-on-it.html?_r=0)

# SPEAK OUT

HOLOCAUST EDUCATION THROUGH FILM

2. Read this article about about Solomon Perel's autobiography.

- <http://www.ushmm.org/research/publications/academic-publications/full-list-of-academic-publications/europa-europa>

How does the film compare with this summary of the book?

3. In an article about the film in [The Washington Post](#), Hal Hinson suggests: *"Solly's object is survival, and survive he does, mostly through pluck and preposterous blind chance."* Do you agree with this statement?

4. What other factors influenced whether people survived the Holocaust? Have a look at some of these stories to inform your discussion:

- <http://holocaustlearning.org/survivors>