

“Holocaust is often perceived as a wound. A scar. Consciously and subconsciously we touch it to see if it is still there. And even though the years pass by the scar doesn't disappear. We should talk about our scars. We shouldn't hope for them to fade away. Scars define us. They tell our story, show where we come from. Holocaust is our scar. Scar of the people, Europeans, Poles, and Jews.

We ask questions. How could this happen? Why? Could something have been done differently, maybe better? What would we do, if confronted with that times? Over time our answers change, as do we. We gain a new perspective. No two answers are the same. The perspective of a sixteen-year-old differs from the perspective of someone mature, who has a family on their own, as well as someone, who does not know the reality of the 1940s, and someone who read books and memoirs about that times, and felt that pain with every turn of a page. Whatever the answer, the reality of what really happened won't change.

Nevertheless, we should ask the questions and get the answers over and over again, so that we won't forget our scar, which made us more aware of who we are and what we are capable of.

“Hitler's Aunt” is my next film about the Holocaust. I am probing the scar. I am asking questions. Again, this is a story about ordinary people in extraordinary times, and an attempt to answer the question: “How is it that when most avert their eyes, others risk everything to remain decent?”. Leon's story is not about being heroic. It's a story about common decency, about people who have different perspectives and life chances, because of their different backgrounds. “We won't get killed in the street for having dark eyes” – Leon says to a Polish friend. This quote sums up the difference between the fate of Poles and Jews at times of war – it shows in a very distinctive manner the difference between life and death.

The scenography of “Hitler's Aunt” is not overly complex. It was a deliberate choice that we made. We didn't want the scenography to overshadow the most important things and take away the possibility of asking the most important questions.”

Michał Rogalski