



Synopsis

AFTERWARDS explores the persistence of trauma among adults who have been child victims of genocide. It focuses on the experiences of orphans of two genocides, separated from one another by fifty years: the Holocaust in France and the genocide of the Tutsi in Rwanda. What might the orphans of these genocides have to say to each other today?

In November 2019, Susan Solomon and Amélie Mutarabayire-Schafer brought together three orphans of the 1942 deportation of Jews from France and three orphans of the 1994 genocide of the Tutsi in Rwanda to talk. The dialogue, which took place around a table in a small room in the Mémorial de la Shoah in Paris, was arguably the

first of its kind attempted. The conversation among the participants was not about the genocide itself, but about what happened "afterwards": how they grew up without parents, without roots and how they struggle even today with a deep loneliness triggered by the traumatic events that changed their lives forever.

The table serves as the focal point of the documentary. It is the place from which we leave to follow individual participants as they navigate their daily lives in Paris; the table is also the place to which we return time and again as participants pick up the threads of their conversation about the aftermath of genocide. Without warning, the past pierces the present.

The Participants



Emmanuel Rugema

Nineteen years old when the genocide of the Tutsi in Rwanda began, he moved to France in 2002. He has held positions in several associations of survivors and has started a family. And yet, he admits, the past is never far away.



Rosette Bénière

Aged 87, until very recently she had difficulty talking about the deportation of her parents to Auschwitz. From the age of ten, she lived in a series of children's homes run by the communist-affiliated Commission Centrale de de l'enfance.



Bernadette Kabanda

Now in her fifties, she was in Paris in 1994. Her first child was born just a week after the start of the genocide of the Tutsi in Rwanda. It took her five years to return to Rwanda in search of surviving family members.



Didas Kanamugire

Orphaned in the genocide of the Tutsi when he was just a year old, he was saved from the rubble by his seven-year-old brother who carried him to safety on his back. Arriving in France in 2009, he now lives in Aubenas. He is an artist, a director and a composer.



Daniel Baron

Raised in children's homes from the age of seven, he carried with him for over forty years a closed box with letters written to his mother by his father when he was in the internment camps at Drancy and Compiègne.



Benjamine Gerbal

She remembers going from one children's home to another in the ten years after the deportation of her parents to Auschwitz. Only in her forties did she finally accept that they were dead.



Marie-Rose Moro

University professor specializing in child psychiatry. Director of the Maison de Solenn, a hospital for adolescents affiliated with Cochin Hospital, she is a leading figure in transcultural psychiatry in France.

Directors and Producer



Susan SolomonDirector and Producer

Professor emerita, University of Toronto. Born in Montreal, she attended a school in which half of the children came from families partially destroyed in the Holocaust.

A historian of medicine, she works on the trauma of child victims of genocide.

She wrote and codirected the documentary "In Search of Roubakine," which was shown at the Solzhenitsyn Festival (2012).



Amélie Mutarabayire-SchaferDirector

A psychotherapist, she lost the majority of her family in the genocide of the Tutsi.

Founder of the association Subiruseke, which helps widows and orphans of genocide, she coordinated a program for Médecins du Monde and Ibuka France to provide psychological support to survivors during the Gacaca trials.

Director of "Les Dames de la Colline" (2014) and co-author of "L'Appel de l'Inanga (2023)".

