

Harbour of Hope press release. For immediate release

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A FILM BY MAGNUS GERTTEN
**HARBOUR
OF HOPE**

HARBOUR OF HOPE INTERNATIONAL PREMIERE AT THESSALONIKI DOCUMENTARY FESTIVAL



February 2012. Malmö, Sweden.

After a successful release in Swedish cinemas, Harbour of Hope will now start reaching an international audience. First step is the International Premiere at Thessaloniki Documentary Festival in March.

The Thessaloniki Documentary Festival has chosen to highlight Harbour of Hope by including the film among the 'much-anticipated documentaries produced in 2011'. The International Premiere will be on Sunday, March 11th at 18:00 in the Stavros Tornes Theatre. An additional screening of Harbour of Hope is scheduled for Monday, March 12th at 20:30 at Olympion Theatre.

The Thessaloniki Documentary Festival writes the following about Harbour of Hope: 'In 1945, the serene harbour town of Malmö in Sweden became a haven for 30.000 survivors of German concentration camps, rescued by the Red Cross –about 8.000 of them stayed in Sweden and rebuilt their lives there. The film recounts the stories of Irene, Joe and Ewa, who talk about the war, their release from the camps and their lives afterwards; a wealth of remarkable archival footage, mainly of the survivors' arrival in Sweden, completes the story both historically and dramatically. As such, the film functions not only as historical evidence, but as an astonishing story of human perseverance.'

Upon the announcement of the international premiere of Harbour of Hope Director Magnus Gertten states:

Following the many good reviews and great audience responses Harbour of Hope has had in Sweden, I am looking forward to start meeting an international audience at Thessaloniki Documentary Festival. It has been my privilege to have one of my previous films screened there and I look forward to having the international premiere of Harbour of Hope at this great festival.

Harbour of Hope has received a great number of very positive reviews in connection with the cinema release of the film in Sweden. Here are a few of the Harbour of Hope reviews:

'...the film is so well mastered and captures your interest from start till end...'. Danish Film Critic Tue Steen Müller gave Harbour of Hope five out of six possible stars at Filmkommentaren.dk.

'Magnus Gertten has managed to make a film full of warmth and human presence, even a beautiful film, if one may say so, given the subject matter.' Robert Dahlström in [Ystads Allehanda](http://YstadsAllehanda).

'Harbour of Hope, currently screening in the cinema Spegeln in Malmo, may be one of the best Swedish documentaries ever produced. See it!'
Per T Ohlsson, Sydsvenskan (Swedish newspaper)

Thessaloniki Documentary Film Festival is the first stop on an international festival tour, which Harbour of Hope will have in the coming months. More festivals are already

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announced and more will follow soon. To stay updated on future screenings you can go to the Harbour of Hope Facebook page: <http://www.facebook.com/HarbourOfHope>

About Harbour of Hope

In Spring 1945 Red Cross liberated thousands of concentration camp survivors and rescued them to the Malmö Harbour, Sweden. Among the thousands of survivors brought to Malmö were Irene Krausz-Fainman, Ewa Kabacinska Jansson and Joe Rozenberg, the protagonists in the documentary Harbour of Hope. Together with the Red Cross voluntary Stig Kinnhagen and Malmö citizen Bo Fröberg they are telling the amazing story of how The City of Malmö mobilized to take care of the survivors and helped save thousands of lives. In unique archive footage we see 10 year-old Irene at the harbour taking her first shaky steps in freedom. We see new-born Ewa carried from the boat by her mother. And we meet Joe, who arrived as a lonely child without his family. In Harbour of Hope they tell their amazing stories from the moment of liberation to the unsolved mysteries in present time. A film about dealing with war memories, the importance of a helping hand and finding a "harbour of hope".

To stay updated you can follow the Harbour of Hope Facebook page
<http://www.facebook.com/HarbourOfHope>

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Note to editors

Interview opportunity with Harbour of Hope Director Magnus Gertten

Director Magnus Gertten will be available for interviews during Thessaloniki Documentary Festival. He will arrive in Thessaloniki on Friday, March 9 and will be present for both screenings of the film to talk about the extensive research behind Harbour of Hope and his work with the film.

To book an interview with Magnus Gertten please get in contact with:

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Additional information on Harbour of Hope

Press material on Harbour of Hope is available here
http://www.autoimages.se/press/harbour_of_hope_press/

Link to the Thessaloniki Documentary Festival

<http://www.filmfestival.gr/>

Background information on the historical aspects of Harbour of Hope can be found here:

White Busses on Wikipedia: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/White_Buses

Swedish Red Cross report on the white busses (in Swedish): <http://www.redcross.se/om-oss/historik/vita-bussarna/>

Wikipedia article on Folke Bernadotte, vice-president of the Swedish Red Cross during WWII and leading figure in the White Busses operation: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Folke_Bernadotte