

# Through The Glass Productions

www.ThroughTheGlassProductions.com

**Nikki Hevesy**

**Director • Producer**

**Contact: NikkiLH@gmail.com**

**310-207-6095**

*We've all heard the story of Anne Frank who, with her family, hid from the Nazis but was still slaughtered. This is the story of her next door neighbors who, instead of going into hiding with the Franks, took flight across Europe, going head on into danger.*



They ran when the Frank family stayed



Untold true story  
Award winning book.

## TAKING FLIGHT

**Mini-Series (6x52):** Taking Flight (working title, currently a book to develop)

True story, based on the award-winning book, "**A Chance to Live: A Family's Journey to Freedom**"

Sweeping scope... non-stop action through *Nuremberg, Amsterdam, Antwerp, Paris, Lyon, Barcelona, ...*

**Genre:** Period/Action Adventure/Suspense Drama

**Plot:** Jewish artist fleeing false charges by Gestapo decides to place the fate of his young family in the hands of an underground network led by righteous gentiles, in a life-or-death chase to keep ahead of the Nazis as they sweep across Europe.

**Elements:** The story is filled with "edge-of-your-seat", riveting action, sinking boats, jumping from trains, with some humorous elements (Boy in Brothel...) There is a market for period and even WWII material. This is not a "Holocaust story", rather the story of a man's journey – through a harrowing adventure across Europe overcoming incredible obstacles - to become the husband, father and man he needs to be to survive.

Each episode takes place in a different country where they have to assume a different identity, but ultimately have to escape and flee for their lives. While Anne Frank and her family are key in the first episode, her presence is felt through her letters and stories in counterpoint to Pieter and the Kohnstam family throughout the book as this can open and or close each episode. Core characters include the Kohnstam family (Hans, Ruth and 6-year old Pieter), Nazi antagonist and Christian ally, Gerde. Each week provides opportunity for different guest stars to emerge as individuals from different walks of life come together to help this family stay alive.

**Summary:** Hans Kohnstam, a young Jewish artist and dreamer, had temporarily settled in Amsterdam after being falsely accused by the Gestapo in Nuremberg, Germany (1933). Now faced with the danger of advancing Fascism, he must grow into a man to ensure the survival of his wife, Ruth, and 6-year-old son, Pieter. Aided by Gerda, a righteous gentile who owns fashion salons across Europe, the Kohnstams bid farewell to their neighbors—the Anne Frank family—and take flight across Europe on a treacherous journey to escape the advancing Nazis.

The family moves through Europe with the help of Gerda's 'passeurs'—aristocrats, hookers, artists and priests—who have risked everything to join the underground resistance. Fresh instructions, false identities (farmers, railway workers...) and impending danger await the Kohnstams at every twist and turn.

**Theme:** This is a story of humanity, potential and possibility. The faith and courage of many people come together to bring this family the hope of survival.

"A Chance to Live: A Family's Journey to Freedom" (Bardolf, 2005; Finalist, Best Biography/ Autobiography, Florida Publishers Association, 2008)