

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Leslie Streit

God Wears My Underwear

This film took seven years to make. It was a labor of devotion and often of despair. One entire year was devoted to obtaining the rights to the archival footage that we used. The story and characters continued to evolve over the seven years. If the film had been completed sooner, it would not be the same film it turned out to be.

In my childhood, I had dreams of being chased by people who wanted to kill me. Much later, after beginning work on the film, I came across the books of Rabbi Yonassan Gershom who discusses the relationship between similar dreams and souls that are reincarnated from the Holocaust. I felt that I was on a quest for the truth about my own soul.

The idea for the story came from a discussion with a friend. She claimed to be a reincarnation of a Tibetan Monk who was in Germany in 1933 and did not get involved in the struggle against the Nazis. My friend is a person who is confused about her sexual identity. She feels it was the consequence of having been this monk in the previous lifetime. It was a fascinating concept and one I wanted to explore.

The title "God Wears My Underwear" comes from the fact that everyone wears underwear. All people are the same underneath their clothing. I hope the audience finds the film to be beautiful, tragic and sometimes funny – very much like life.