

THE WILD ONE

(dir. Tessa Louise-Salomé, 2022)

Viewer Discussion Guide

This discussion guide will...

help navigate the impact of core concepts of the film, and how viewers may relate.

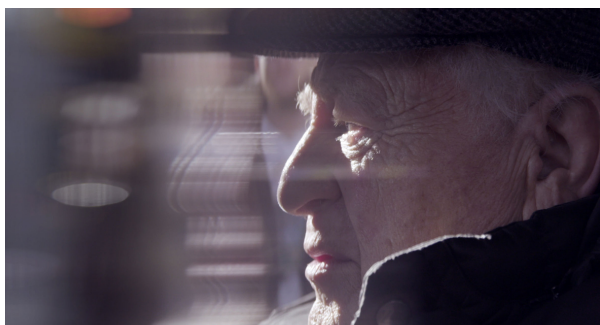
Synopsis

THE WILD ONE illuminates the journey of unsung artist Jack Garfein - Holocaust survivor, celebrated Broadway director, Actors Studio West co-founder, and controversial filmmaker. The film examines how his experience in Nazi concentration camps shaped his vision of acting as a survival mechanism and propelled his engagement with themes of violence, power, and racism in postwar America in two explosive films: THE STRANGE ONE (1957) and SOMETHING WILD (1961). THE WILD ONE explores the importance of his legacy as an artist who confronted censorship and reveals how art can draw on personal memory to better enlighten our present.



KEY THEMES:

- Antisemitism
- World War II
- Actors Studio
- Cinema
- Art Censorship



About Jewish Story Partners

Jewish Story Partners stimulates and supports the highest caliber independent films that use fresh, nuanced perspectives to tell stories about the diverse spectrum of Jewish experiences, cultures, and encounters.

Discussion Questions

- In *THE WILD ONE*, what do you think the director, Tessa Louise-Salomé, is trying to say about the ways in which the personal life of an artist can impact their work?
 - In particular, how do you think Jack Garfein's Holocaust experiences impacted his work in the Actors Studio and his later work as a director?
 - In your opinion, why were Garfein's movies censored?
 - Do you think that making art was a way that Garfein was able to be resilient after WWII? Do you think that making films helped him process his experiences during the war?
 - Had you heard about Jack Garfein before watching this film?
 - What were the most interesting or surprising things you learned about Jack Garfein while watching *THE WILD ONE*?
 - How would you describe Jack Garfein? After watching the film, are you interested in watching the films he directed?
 - Has art ever helped you work through a difficult period in your life?
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Additional Resources

My Bike and Other Friends by Henry Miller, Chapter 6 ([link](#))

Baby Doll: An Autobiography by Carroll Baker ([link](#))

Life and Acting: Techniques for the Actor by Jack Garfein ([link](#))

Jack Garfein archive collection, Margaret Herrick Library ([link](#))

THE STRANGE ONE, Dir. Jack Garfein ([link](#))

SOMETHING WILD, Dir. Jack Garfein ([link](#))

