Freddie
Short Fiction Film Research and Development

Koret Scholars Research Team
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Film Directed by Professor Talena Sanders
During World War II, three teenage Dutch girls weaponized their femininity and sexuality to seduce and assassinate Nazi officers as part of the Dutch resistance. Freddie will be an experimental narrative short film that stands as an allegory for our current political era.

Sisters Freddie and Truus Oversteegen along with Hanne Schaft weaponized what often makes women most vulnerable – their sexuality and femininity – to seduce and assassinate Nazi officers as part of the Dutch resistance during World War II. Freddie will be an experimental narrative short film, as seen through the eyes of Freddie, the youngest of these female resistance icons.

An allegory for our current political era, rife with far-right rhetoric, the normalization of white supremacy, disinformation campaigns, and threats to democracy and journalism, the film highlights a story of a group of bold young women who chose to resist instead of adapt, despite the possible personal consequences.
**Tone**

The story will unfold through slow, meditative pacing, intimate, extreme close-ups of small details, small gestures, and poetic storytelling structure. Shooting in 1940s period-appropriate cinematic 35mm film, with close attention to precise, heightened sound design to convey small details, the film will be designed to place viewers inside Freddie’s experiences.

As Freddie meets and flirts with the Nazi officer she has been assigned to pursue, the viewer experiences embodiment through the close sound of her breath and heartbeats. Throughout the film we see each moment unfold in extreme close-ups of details – the setting, the officer’s eyes and mouth as he speaks.

When Freddie finally leads the Nazi target to the forest to carry out the work of the resistance, the camera pulls back to an ultra-wide view. This shift in perspective represents her understanding of her role in the bigger picture of fighting the extermination of European Jews, Non-Jewish Poles, Soviet citizens, Afro-Germans, Roma, disabled, and queer people and others seen as “undesirable”. In interviews prior to her death, Oversteegen said she was never comfortable with being an assassin, but she was always confident she was working for the right cause.
Visual Direction & Playlist

“I’ll Be Seeing You” by Billie Holiday, 1938
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9l44_n60QQ8&feature=emb_imp_woyt

“White Cliffs of Dover” and “We’ll Meet Again” by Vera Lynn, 1942
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9l44_n60QQ8&feature=emb_imp_woyt

“Sentimental Journey” by Doris Day, 1944
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9l44_n60QQ8&feature=emb_imp_woyt

“You’ll Never Know” by Dick Haymes, 1943
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HgBWumm95gw

“Lili Marleen” by Marlene Dietrich, 1944
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7heXZPl2hik

“As Time Goes By” by Dooley Wilson, 1942
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d22CiKMPpaY

“Moonlight Serenade” by Glenn Miller, 1944
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SBSCyzocONQ

“Wonder When My Baby’s Coming Home” by Jimmy Dorsey and His Orchestra, 1942
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kpELNwxvw
Character Bios

**Freddie Oversteegen** (1925 - 2018) was a Dutch Resistance member during WWII. Her family hid a Jewish couple in their home, and she and her older sister Truus began handing out anti-Nazi pamphlets. When Freddie was 14 she joined the resistance and began working with them in an organized way to sabotage the Nazi military presence in the Netherlands. Working with her sister and Hanne Schaft she helped destroy railroad tracks and bridges with dynamite and smuggle Jewish children out of the country. Freddie, the youngest, was the first to shoot a Nazi soldier while riding a bicycle. She and the other young women would also lure Nazi officers from bars to the woods where they would assassinate the soldiers.

**Truus Oversteegen** (1923 - 2016) was a Dutch Resistance member during WWII and Freddie’s older sister. Later in life she wrote a memoir about her experiences.

**Hannie Schaft** (1920 - 1945) a.k.a. The Girl With the Red Hair worked with the Dutch Resistance. She was captured by Nazi soldiers later in the war and executed. She became known as a symbol of the resistance.
Costume References
Location References: Inside Home
Location References: Bar
I am an artist and filmmaker who creates experimental documentary films that reflect the wild complexity and strange poetry of lived experience. Expanding and challenging mainstream documentary conventions is at the center of my work. I like gaps and mystery and opening up more questions than giving easy answers. Sometimes my work is about my own experiences, sometimes it’s about artists and people I admire — trailblazing women and queer people. My work is collage-like – weaving together materials from many different sources and angles. I record on 16mm most often, in part for the way that material destabilizes a viewer’s sense of time, blurring the line between found footage and what is contemporary.

My educational background includes an MFA from Duke University’s Experimental and Documentary Arts program and a BFA in Studio Art from the University of Kentucky. My work has been screened, exhibited, and collected internationally, including at the New York Film Festival’s Views from the Avant-Garde, FID Marseille, Montreal International Documentary Festival, Fronteira Festival, Viennale, DokuFest Kosovo, BFI London Film Festival, and Southeastern Center for Contemporary Art. My first feature documentary, *Liahona*, is distributed by Documentary Educational Resources and Doc Alliance. I am proud to be a film educator, serving as Assistant Professor of Communication and Media Studies at Sonoma State University.