

CARL LAEMMLE

a film by

James L. Freedman



To view the film's trailer, film clips, as well as vintage photos please visit our website:
Carllaemmlerthefilm.com

FILMMAKER'S STATEMENT

After my first film *Glickman* aired on HBO, I did a lot of research looking to find my next documentary subject. Nothing really excited me, then one day I came across an article about how in the early 1900s this little German-American immigrant, Carl Laemmle, had taken on Thomas Edison's monopolistic Film Trust. This "David vs. Goliath" battle, which Laemmle ultimately won, determined the future of the film business. Then I read another article about Laemmle which explained how he founded Universal Studios and led the immigration of filmmakers to Hollywood. Another article revealed how Laemmle hired many women directors (in stark contrast to studio practices today) and made his favorite director, Lois Weber, the highest paid director on his lot. Yet another article told how Laemmle fought Hollywood censors to make *Imitation of Life*, a film about being black in America in the 1930s. Article after article revealed this man's extraordinary vision and accomplishments -- yet when I would tell people about him, they had barely heard of him.

However, it was what I read about Carl after he sold Universal in 1936 that really blew me away. In the last years of his life, Carl Laemmle spent most of his time and fortune rescuing Jewish refugee families from Nazi Germany. To do this he not only had to fight the Nazis but an anti-Semitic U.S. State Department that didn't want any more those "refugees" coming to America. The parallels to our U.S. government's anti-immigration policies of today were striking.

With so much divisiveness in our country these days, I thought what better time to make a film about an immigrant who helped make America great.

FILMMAKER'S BIO

Writer, Producer, Director: James L. Freedman

James L. Freedman produced Marty Glickman's late night sports radio show on WNEW as a senior in high school. Mr. Freedman went on to produce UNICEF commercials before becoming a working writer and producer in Hollywood for over 25 years. Among the many episodic television shows he has written for are *Coach*, *Zoe*, and Golden Globe winner *Cybill*. In addition, he has penned over one dozen pilots for ABC, NBC, CBS, FOX, and UPN -- as well as feature scripts for Warner Brothers and 20th Century Fox. Mr. Freedman wrote, produced and directed the critically acclaimed HBO documentary, *Glickman* (Executive Produced by Martin Scorsese). *Carl Laemmle* is his second film.

INTERVIEW SUBJECTS

Including: Peter Bogdanovich, Bob Balaban, Leonard Maltin, NBCUniversal's Ron Meyer, Rabbi Marvin Hier, Film Historians Richard Koszarski, Anthony Slide, Carl Laemmle's Grand-niece, archival interviews with Carl Laemmle, Mel Brooks, Boris Karloff, Bela Lugosi,

John Ford, William Wyler, Paul Kohner, Mrs. Erich von Stroheim, Lupita Tovar, and Carla Laemmle. In addition, there are some very touching interviews with the refugees that Carl Laemmle saved from Nazi Germany.

CAST & CREW

Voice of Carl Laemmle: Willie Garson

Willie Garson has appeared in over 300 episodes of television and more than 70 films. Mr. Garson is best known for his long runs on television, portraying Mozzie on *White Collar*, Stanford Blatch on *Sex and the City*, Henry Coffield on *NYPD Blue*, and Gerald Hirsch on *Hawaii 5-0*. His feature film work includes roles in *Something About Mary*, *Kingpin*, *Fever Pitch*, *Soapdish*, *Groundhog Day*, *Mars Attacks*, *The Rock*, *Being John Malkovitch* and *Feed*. His upcoming films include *Walk to Vegas*, and *The Bellmen*.

Music Composer: David Carbonara

David Carbonara is best known as the composer of the Emmy winning series *Mad Men* for which his contemporary score and period jazz inspired a number of soundtracks. In that vein, he produced period songs for Amazon's series *The Last Tycoon*. He also scored the CBS series *Vegas* (starring Dennis Quaid and created by James Mangold) As a film composer, Carbonara's credits include; *Spanking the Monkey*, *The Guru*, *Fast Food Fast Women*, *Some Girl(s)*, *The Congressman*, *Amelia* and *Glickman* among others. Currently, Carbonara is working on the score for Amazon's upcoming anthology series *The Romanoffs*.

Editors: Frank Laughlin, Keith Robinson

Frank Laughlin has over 30 years of motion picture production experience -- from moviolas to Apple Motion. Frank has worked as an editor, producer, director and production consultant, including editing and associate producing the HBO documentary *Glickman*.

Keith Robinson edited *When We Were Kings*, did the sound on *Independent Lens: Bhuto* and edited *Glickman*.

Cinematographers: Lon Magdich, Zvonimir "Z" Vidusin, Bill Irmischer

Lon Magdich is an award-winning Director of Photography with extensive experience in television and feature film production. His work has aired on Discovery, National Geographic, HBO, the History Channel, PBS and others.

Zvonimir "Z" Vidusin is a cinematographer/DP with over 20 years experience working on short films, documentaries and television shows.

Sound: Preston Edmundson

Preston Edmundson began cutting voiceover and editing for the BBC in the 1990s. He later served as lead audio mixer for National Geographic, and then manager of audio post production for The Discovery Channel. He won a prime-time Emmy for sound mixing in 2009. In 2018 he was nominated for the MPSE Golden Reel awards for his documentary work with Netflix. He continues to mix documentary film and original television series, and serves as resident lecturer in audio post production for the Los Angeles Film School.