

Adventurous Arts Presents

TRAUMALAND

Genre: Comedy

Based on her bestselling memoir
My Parents Went Through the Holocaust
and All I Got Was This Lousy T-Shirt

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Chain of Title: Hañala Sagal
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***Some people are stars
Some are the darkness
around the star***





LOGLINE

The gifted, codependent daughter of Holocaust survivors rises above addictions and really bad dates to become an icon in recovery in this inspiring true story.



Secondary Trauma

(the impact of the Holocaust trauma on children of survivors) is explored with "survival-mechanism humor" and through writer, comedian, artist, addiction expert, Hanala Sagal

Tortured by a past filled with Nazis and the parents who fled them, Hanala escaped from Montreal, headed for Hollywood and changed her name to something not Jewish. She became Suzan Stadner, the creator and star of the number one show in the history of L.A.'s community access TV, Shape Up, LA!

But not right away. When she first arrived, instead of getting into acting, she got into drugs, alcohol and limos with strange men. After a few overdoses, she became sober and an aerobics instructor... The hilarious, profound, heart-rending story is a Traumedy (Trauma+Time=Comedy). A little bit Auschwitz, a little bit Brady Bunch... Roots, with a smaller family.

Illustration by Hanala Sagal

TRAUMALAND

Comedy

Feature



WE SCREENPLAY

The script has a tall order. Not to make the Holocaust funny. Not once does the material even remotely suggest this. No, instead, the material looks at how we can cope with trauma through time and perspective. And a bit of humor.

The film's tackling of a second-generation survivor of the Holocaust whose parents carried the weight of the experience through their daily lives is poignant and hilarious in equal measure. We all at once relate to all of the characters as we understand Hanala's parents' inability to let go of such a devastating tragedy and also to Hanala's impatience with not being the one responsible for their

suffering and lack of acknowledgment of her own issues.

The bite and self-deprecating humor Hanala carries with her into adulthood clearly stemmed from her upbringing.

There are numerous laugh-out-loud jokes that will be memorable quotes.

The dialogue and humor are whip-sharp and captures the zest that made the original book the piece is based on so popular.

Hanala is a hilarious and original character.

The arc she goes on over the course of the film is both hilarious and poignant.

It would be great for a unique perspective like Hanala's to find viewers and show them a different side of a culture that is largely misunderstood.

Her voice is one that would likely strike a chord with audiences.



SYNOPSIS

Hanala, named after her aunt who died in a gas chamber, changed her name to Suzan. She's your typical neurotic, yet lovable, over-achieving, gifted daughter of Holocaust survivors. She has no self-esteem but plenty of guilt. She has dreams of helping the World but lacks the self-esteem to help herself.

Animated illustrations, voiceovers and archival film footage depict adorable Little Hanala, struggling with undiagnosed ADHD and PTSD. She believes the beatings she receives at home are her own fault.

Her bedtime stories aren't "The Cat in the Hat", more like "The Aunt in the Camp." She tries to fix Manya and Felix in hopes of helping them become better parents so they can, one day, comfort her. She sees how they respect celebrities on television. Hanala's goal is to become one of the TV people and get the attention she craves.

Quitting college at 21, Hanala escapes the fighting at home in Montreal and drives to Los Angeles to get into showbiz. She gets deeper into alcoholism and abusive relationships with narcissists, recreating her childhood injuries.

Sick and almost homeless in Hollywood, Hanala appears on game shows to win rent money. Her acting agent advises her not to mention she's Jewish on auditions as "Producers like shicksas, like Rhoda on the Mary Tyler Moore Show -- a shicksa!"

She's yelled at by a soap director for being wasted on set. Suicide Prevention hangs up on her and in 1982, she hits her bottom falling into a Christmas tree while drunk at an A.A. event in Beverly Hills.

Barely surviving addiction and epic codependency, Hanala creates Comedy Wellness as a way to heal and help others overcome the first few haunting years of life.

Writing and hosting cable TV's hit "Shape Up LA!" (fitness for mind & body) in the 80s and 90s, Hanala becomes the first viral vlogger, talking to camera about her life and dysfunction, recovery and social injustice. Her need to educate and entertain has a venue: "I didn't go through the Holocaust, it went through me."

She produces 200 episodes for cable and satellite, wins awards for her work, while teaching aerobics classes at L.A. health clubs. Her nightmares subside and her dreams begin coming true.

Hanala appears in movies and TV shows, sometimes playing herself, she even shapes up Bette Midler in Ruthless People (1986).

Her parents visit her beautiful house in L.A. Hanala finally has their attention and respect. Manya is interviewed on Shape Up, LA!

MARLON BRANDO calls Hanala's hotline, seeking friendship and counseling. He says he's her biggest fan. She visits Brando at his home to discover he's been VCR taping Shape Up LA! and collecting her shows on VHS tapes.

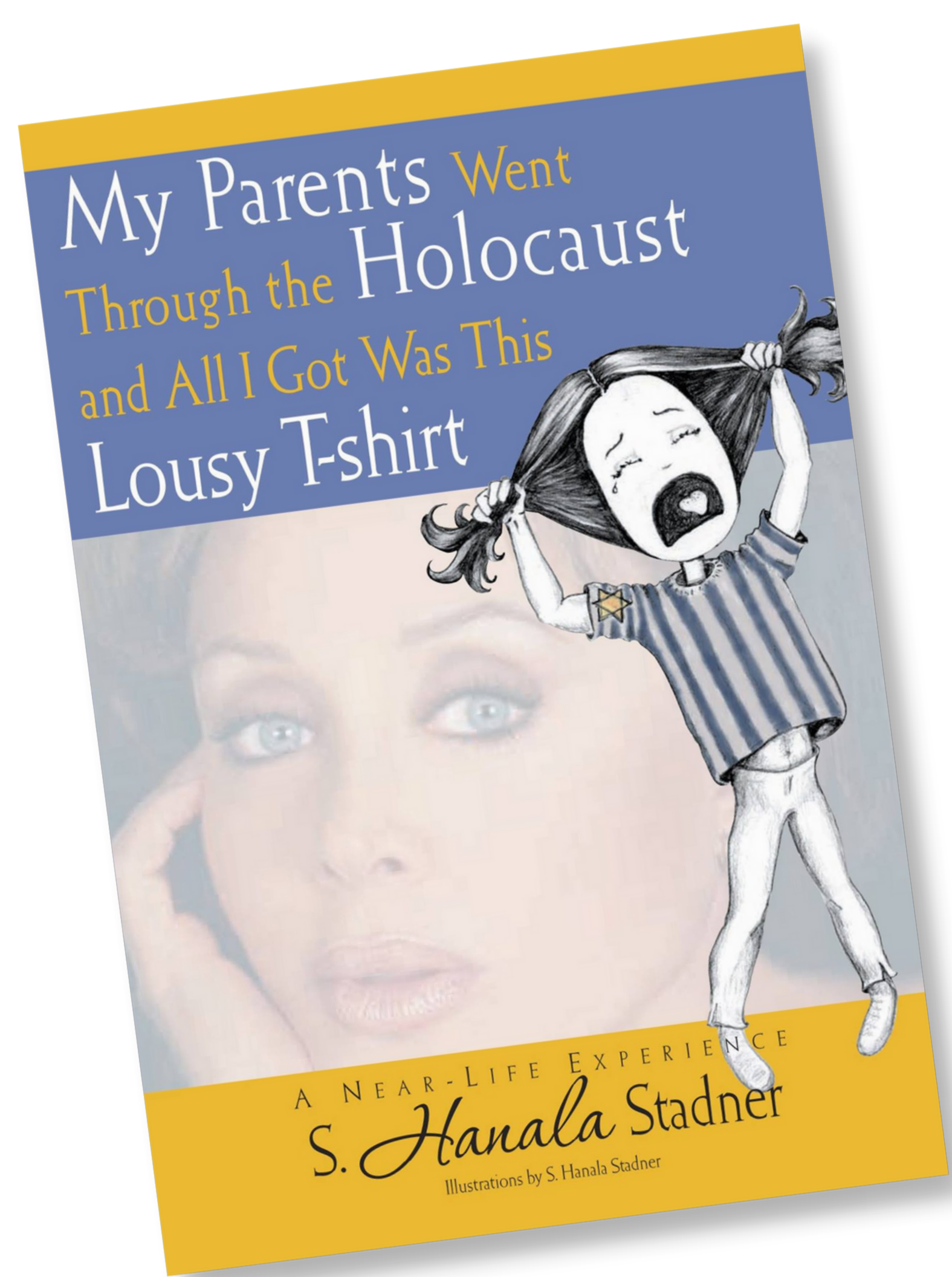
In 2004, Hanala is alone with Manya when she dies. In 2006, Hanala publishes her provocative, illustrated memoir and she launches her YouTube channel gaining more views than any woman in her age range. Her content for "a better tomorrow and a funnier today" has almost a Billion minutes watched.

Hanala and her book are featured in "The Last Laugh", an award-winning documentary exploring gallows humor and the Holocaust.

In 2016, Hanala rocks the Red Carpet at the Tribeca Film Festival, winning for writing and executive producing "Elvis & Nixon."

Now in her 40th year of sobriety, Hanala continues to work in the field of substance abuse, guiding and coaching traumatized humans on how to tell themselves a better story.

Having conquered the negative self-talk and ghosts from her past, Hanala is free to be present in the Present. She's finally figured it out: respect was an inside job all along.



"Hanala's book is smart, funny and touching. She's faced and overcome incredible challenges and never lost her sense of humor."

- Jeff Kanew, Director of *REVENGE OF THE NERDS*

"I loved this funny book!"

- Kirk Douglas

"Hanala's gift for storytelling draws you into her world and grips you with humor and compassion. It's funny and sad....a wild ride."

- Renee Firestone, Holocaust survivor,
star of Steven Spielberg's *THE LAST DAYS*

*"I laughed, I cried, I marveled...
Side-splitting humor."*

- Rabbi Steven Carr Reuben PhD



Photo by James Mare

THINNER THIGHS IN THIRTY MINUTES (OR LESS)
Tonight on **SHAPE UP, L.A!** starring
SUZAN STADNER
GROUP W, Channel 3 — 9:30 pm
Representation by Carol Francis at YOUNG MODELS (213) 859-2491 AFTRA



**"Shape Up, L.A. is funny and profound."
- Alec Baldwin**

**"25 years of therapy in a 20 minute show."
- Jerry Rubin**

**"Eddie and I love Shape Up, L.A!"
- Valerie Bertinelli**

**"We watch the show in our newsroom."
- Dallas Raines, KABC Meteorologist**

**"Hanala, you are an artist."
- Norman Lear**

**"I love your book title."
- Barack Obama**

"Funny." - Alan Zweibel, Saturday Night Live

**"I loved your autobiography."
- Sir Anthony Hopkins**

**"It's a textbook for secondary trauma in children
of Holocaust survivors but much, much funnier."
- Cleveland Jewish News**



**"I tape your shows."
- Marlon Brando**





SCRIPT READERS NOTES
**NICHOLL
FELLOWSHIPS**
IN SCREENWRITING



Traumaland is an irreverent and darkly comedic biopic about a Jewish actress who wishes to find success for herself while carrying baggage from her family and their history.

The script explores Hanala's troubled life with a somewhat nonchalant energy that definitely had me invested and amused by her take on being Jewish, alcoholism and the entertainment business.

Made me laugh out loud.

The early pages deep dive into young Hanala's psyche is intriguing.

The moments I enjoyed the most were the strong character relationships.

The dialogue is snappy and with enough bite to emphasize the script's dark humor.

Creative scene shifting devices, with cinematic style to burn.

This script is uniquely written with a creative vision (often incorporating animation) and a strong voice.

"Hilarious and original"

Surviving Is Not the Same as Living

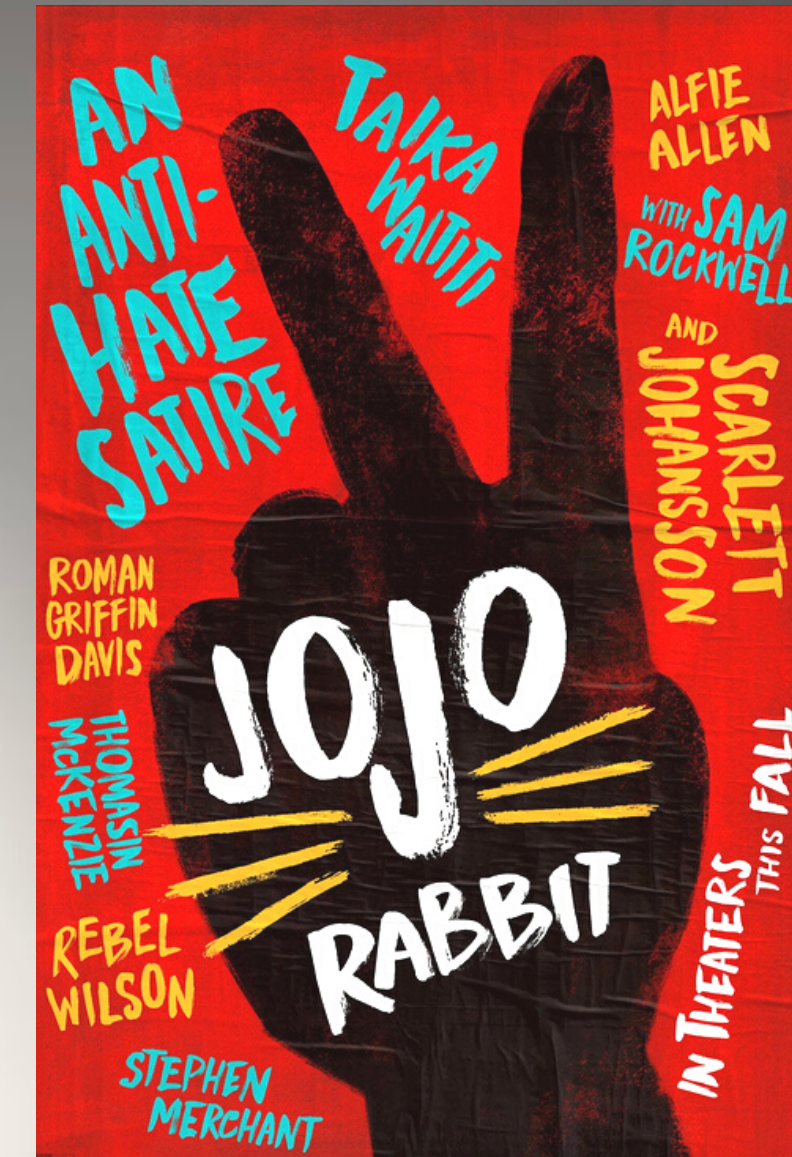
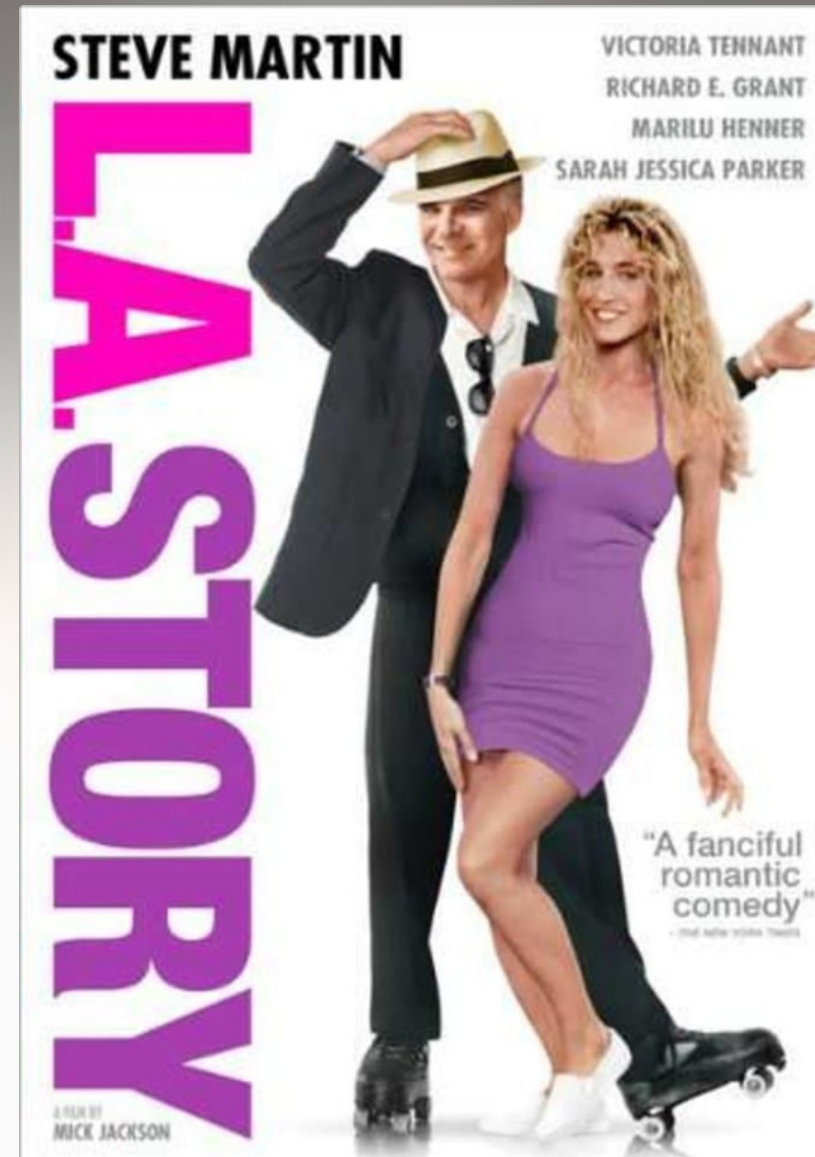
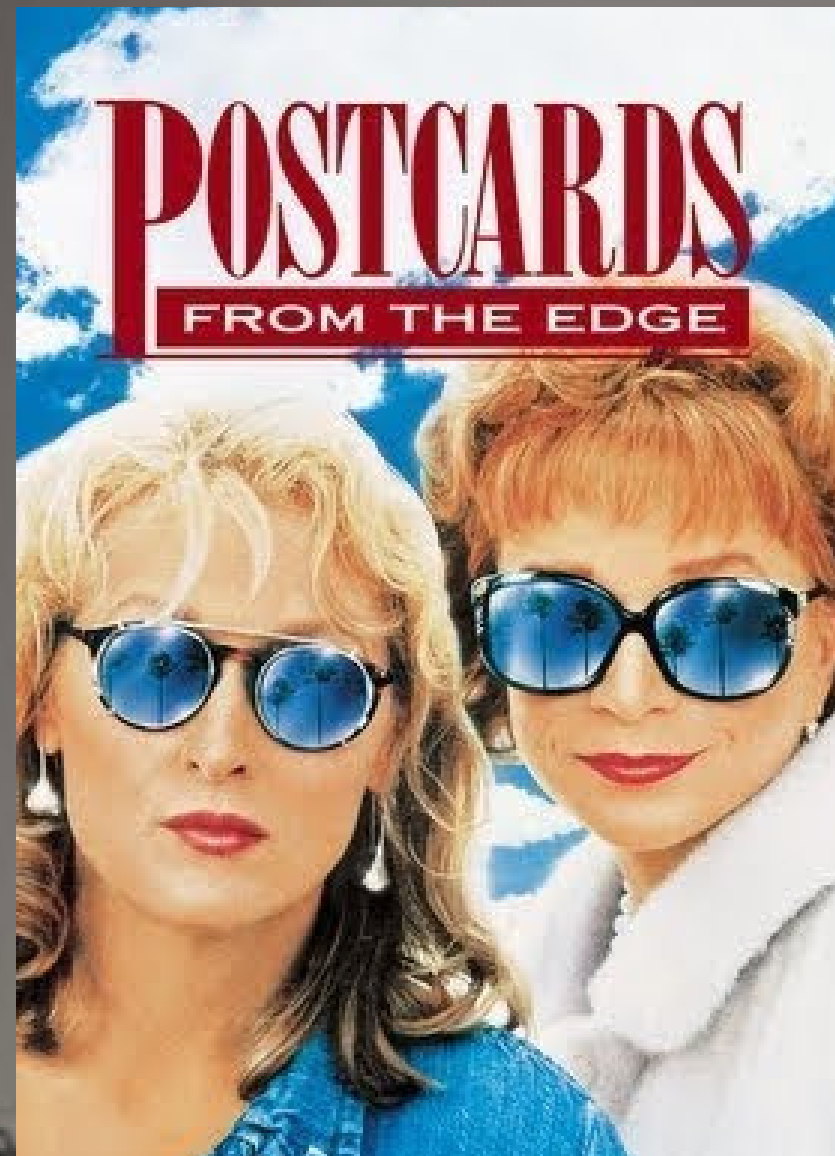


*1948: The Holocaust moves to Canada—
let the oy-vey-ing begin!*

Hitler's dead, Germany's embarrassed, and Jewish refugees spread around the world in search of relatives. Some roam America's gold-paved streets where Jews aren't killed for being Jewish. They're just kept out of country clubs. Others go to Israel. These will become the world's butchiest Jews.

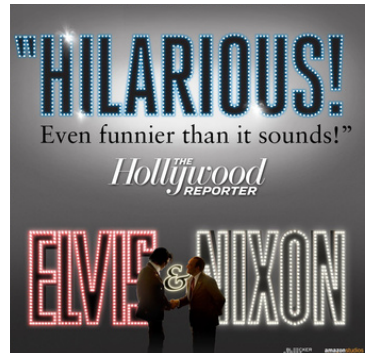
"Tackles a huge question about perspective and pain"

COMPARABLE FEATURE FILMS



TRAUMALAND

PRODUCER / SCREENWRITER



"damn entertaining"
Rolling Stone



Hanala Sagal, the daughter of Holocaust survivors, is a Canadian-born, L.A. based writer, actress, comedian, sober since December 28th, 1982. She co-wrote and Executive Produced **Elvis & Nixon**, the 2016 Tribeca Film Festival winner.



Writing and hosting cable TV's hit **Shape Up LA!** in the 80s and 90s, Hanala created Comedy Wellness, fitness for mind and body. The popular TV guru helped shape the aerobics movement through videos and teaching packed classes at The Sports Connection.

She launched her YouTube channel with content for a better tomorrow and a funnier today in 2006 and has reached a Billion minutes watched.

Hanala continues to work in the field of substance abuse leading workshops and Zoom yoga classes for people in recovery.

Nominated for the Hedy Lamarr Awards for Women in Entertainment & Technology, Hanala was runner-up to recipient Geena Davis.

"My Parents Went Through the Holocaust and All I Got Was This Lousy T-Shirt" is featured in **The Last Laugh** documentary starring **Mel Brooks** and is in the Simon Wiesenthal Center Library.

TRAUMALAND

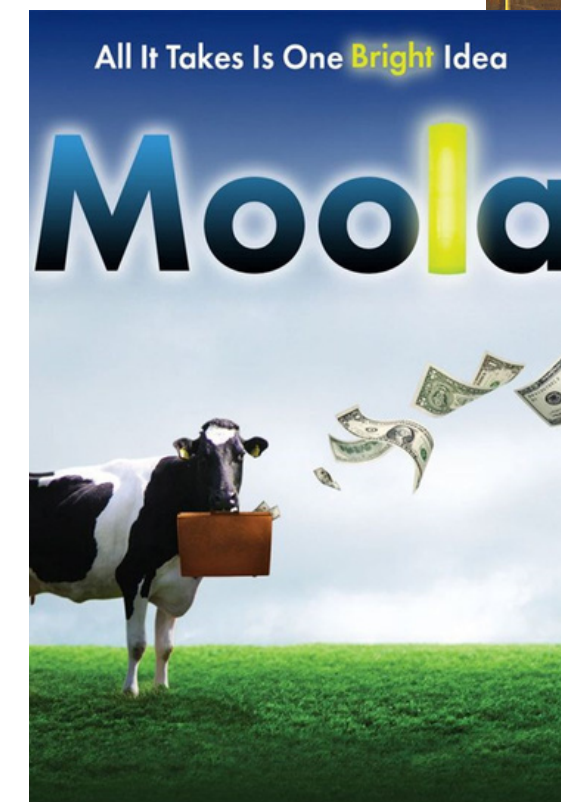
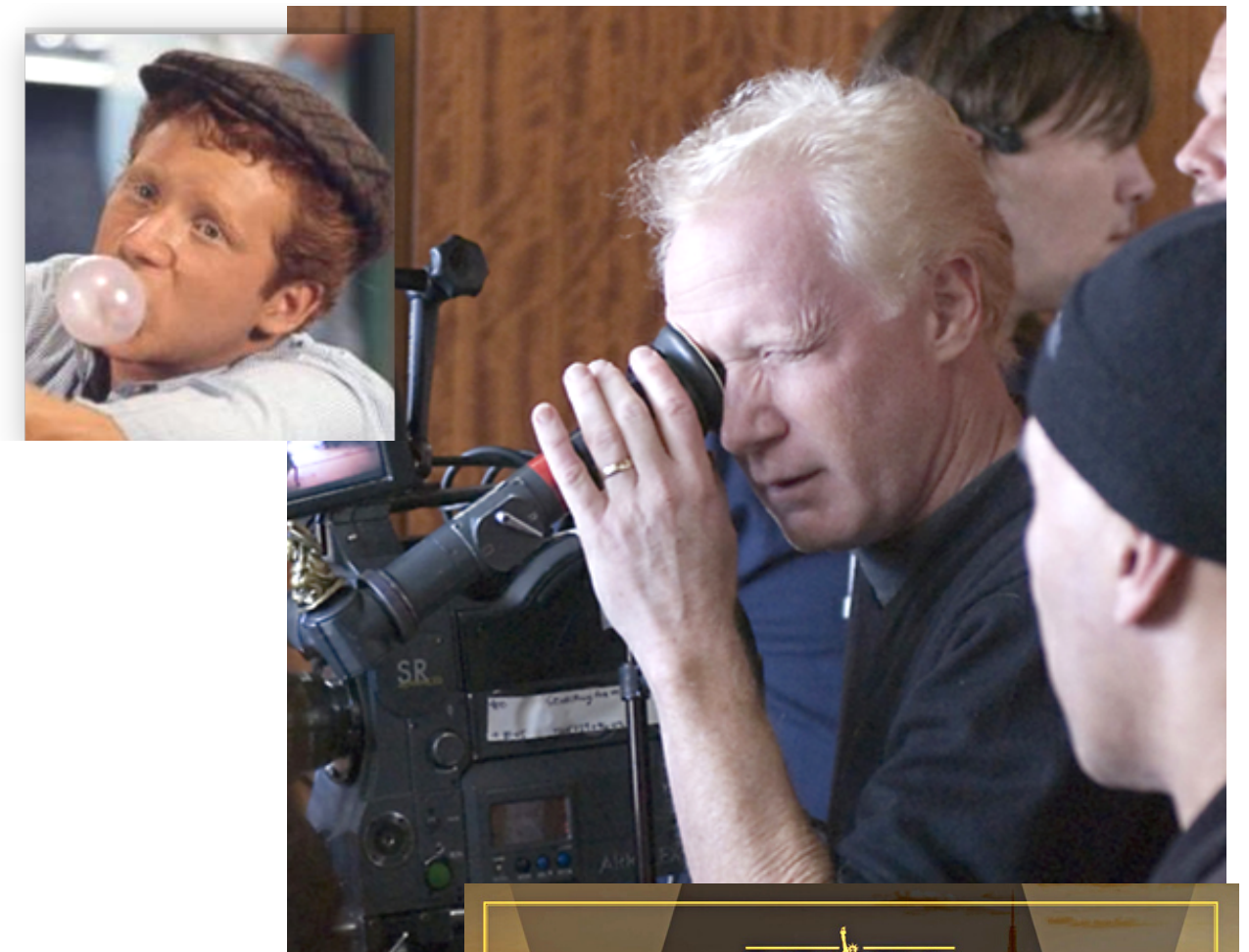
DIRECTOR

Don Most is best known for his co-starring role as Ralph in the long running television series **Happy Days**. During this time, he worked with talents like Jerry Paris, Henry Winkler, Ron Howard and Garry Marshall. Following in the footsteps of some of his peers, Don began directing feature films.

His first, **The Last Best Sunday**, had its World Premiere at the Seattle Film Festival and was a winner at the Telluride Independent Film Festival. It was picked up for Worldwide Distribution and aired on Lifetime.

Don's next film, **Moola**, premiered at the Newport Beach Film Festival, where it won the "Outstanding Achievement in Filmmaking Award" in the Directing category. It was then picked up for Worldwide Distribution and by Showtime.

In January 2022, Don earned three awards for **Scrambled** (Best Comedy, Director, and Actor) in the New York International Film Awards.



TRAUMALAND

PRODUCER

GREGG L DANIEL is a member of the Producer's Guild of America and graduate of the American Film Institute producing fellowship program. He has held posts at The Walt Disney Company, coordinating visual effects for George Lucas and Francis Ford Coppola on the 3D Disneyland attraction **CAPTAIN EO**, served as studio liaison on Touchstone Film productions, worked with Jim Abrahams on **BIG BUSINESS**, and on Garry Marshall's **BEACHES**, and Steven Spielberg's **ALWAYS**.

Mr. Daniel's first feature as Producer was the horror/comedy **TERROR TRACT**, starring Bryan Cranston and John Ritter. Produced for \$750,000, the film went on to sell for \$4,000,000, and was released theatrically overseas and had its domestic premiere as the USA Network's Halloween movie.



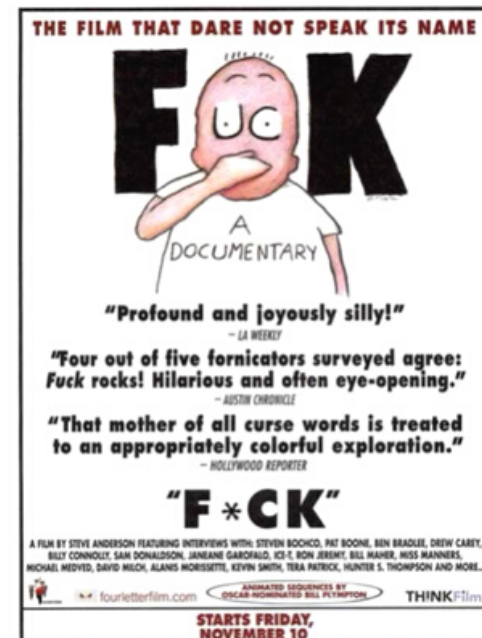
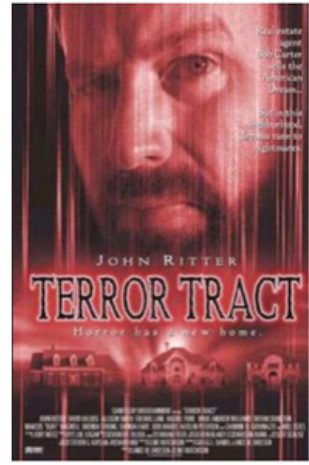
Gregg's next film was the Sci-Fi comedy **THE BIG EMPTY**, which starred Jon Favreau, Daryl Hannah, Sean Bean, and Rachael Leigh Cook. The film premiered at AFI FEST and was released theatrically through Lions Gate and on HBO with Universal Pictures.

Mr. Daniel's documentary **RED WHITE BLACK AND BLUE**, the true story of the Japanese Invasion of Alaska during WWII, premiered on the Emmy winning PBS program The Independent Lens.

Gregg was the Executive Producer of the documentary **FUCK**, a satirical look at the most controversial word in the English language. The World premiere was on the opening night of the South By Southwest film festival and received national theatrical distribution through Thinkfilm.

Gregg was also a creative consultant on Don Most's award-winning film **MOOLA**.

Mr. Daniel is proud to be one of the founders of The Lili Claire Foundation, a non-profit which raised millions to assist children with Neurogenetic conditions. As producer/director of the charity events over the last 20 years, Mr. Daniel has worked with such acts as **Heart, Pat Benatar, Aerosmith, Graham Nash, Cyndi Lauper, Five For Fighting, Everclear, and Boys 2 Men.**



[watch the reel](https://youtu.be/65VYWjY6hCk)
<https://youtu.be/65VYWjY6hCk>

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