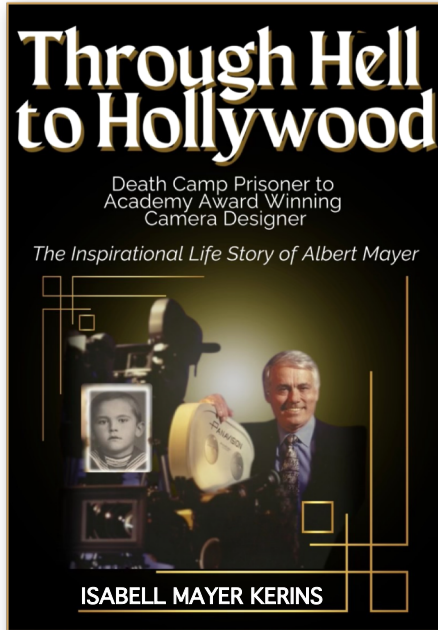


“A triumph through the worst and best of humanity”

Amazon Review



Through Hell to Hollywood is the extraordinary story of Albert Mayer, the inventor of the Panaflex motion picture movie camera and the winner of multiple Academy Awards for Panavision.

Albert, an ethnic German, spent his youth in pre- and post-WWII Yugoslavia, including internment in a Communist death camp as a nine-year-old child. As an adolescent, Albert had to leave the region where he was born and settled in Germany as a refugee, where he received his technical education. He then immigrated to the United States and lived the “American Dream.”

Albert’s story is an inspiring example of how perseverance, family bonds and forgiveness heals the deepest of wounds.

Isabell Mayer Kerins is a debut author.

She began her career as an award winning, nationally recognized corporate marketing executive, transitioning to a small business owner when her second child was born. She has started many successful professional endeavors and has been an elected public official at city, county and state levels.

She is a wife, mother of five adult children and an entrepreneur. She lives with her husband in Southern California.



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Through Hell to Hollywood

#1 BEST SELLER

Product Details

ASIN : BODHN6CMCG

Publisher : Living the Good Life Publishing House Inc

Publishing Date : October 1, 2024

Language : English

Paperback/Hardback/Ebook : 381 Pages

ISBN (hardcover) : 979-8-9915923-3-8 (\$29.99)

ISBN (paperback) : 979-8-9915923-8-3 (\$19.99)

ISBN (Ebook) : 979-8-9915923-6-9 (\$9.99)

Reading Age : 13+ years

Item Weight : 1.43 pounds

Dimensions: 6 x 0.96 x 9 inches

Best Sellers Rank

#1 in Movie Industry

#1 New Release in Movie Industry

#1 in Emigrants and Immigrants Biographies

#1 New Release in Emigrants and Immigrants Biographies

Topics of Conversation

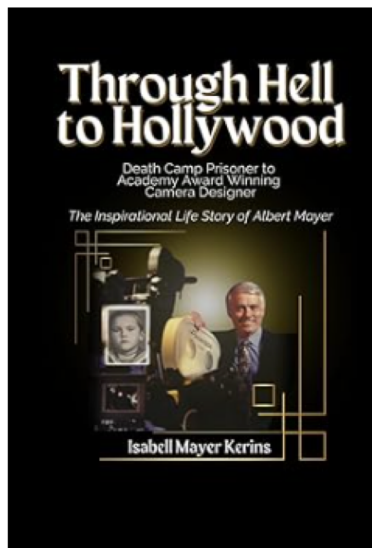
- **Panavision and the history of the motion picture camera**
 - The evolution of motion picture cameras
 - The Panaflex camera – How watchmaking impacted Hollywood
- **War and its effect on the voiceless**
 - Children, woman, the elderly and disabled pay the price of war
 - Stories of perseverance
 - How to prepare our children for unforeseen crisis
- **WWII and the untold story of ethnic Germans**
 - What happened in Eastern Europe after WWII
 - The forgotten genocide of the ethnic Germans in Eastern Europe
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 - Russia and the Allies' alliance during WWII
 - Ukraine and Russian history. How the aftermaths of WWII play a part in the war raging today
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Through Hell to Hollywood: Death Camp Prisoner to Academy Award Winning Camera Designer - The Inspirational Life Story of Albert Mayer Paperback – October 1, 2024

by [Isabell Mayer Kerins](#) (Author)

5.0 ★★★★★ 3 ratings

#1 New Release in Movie Industry

[See all formats and editions](#)

From the daughter of the man whose achievements have inspired generations comes the movie-worthy true story of Albert Mayer: Internment camp survivor, Immigrant, and Hollywood innovator

Albert Mayer was born into the idyllic farming community of Perles in Yugoslavia—six years before the Axis Powers overran Europe and nine years before the Soviet forces interred thousands of ethnic German in Yugoslavian liquidation camps. Surviving on stories of perseverance, faith, and the fearless efforts of fellow prisoners, Albert escaped certain death to become one of the most prolific inventors in the history of Hollywood—a legacy that has been hidden for far too long.

Beginning with his rural roots, Isabell Mayer Kerins recounts the stories told by friends, family members, and the man himself to trace a life deserving of such a legacy.

THROUGH HELL TO HOLLYWOOD finds Albert in the bountiful fields of his childhood in pre-WWII on the Balkan Peninsula, the difficult horrors of his adolescence in a post-WWII Communist death camp, the hostile experiences of his teenage years as a refugee in war-torn Germany, and the hopeful beginnings of his American motion picture career. Bolstered by countless historical resources along with painstaking technical research, Kerins patches together the record of a life that is both gripping and tender, incisively personal and globally influential.

Albert Mayer is one of the most important names in film history the world has never heard. As a leading camera designer at Panavision, his work has shaped the way we see film—quite literally. With the advent of the Panaflex camera, designed and updated by Mayer and his son, countless culture-shaping classics have been produced: Steven Spielberg's *The Sugarland Express* (1974), Ron Howard's *Far and Away* (1992), and James Cameron's *Titanic* (1997) are only a few. Culminating in the award of several Oscars for technical achievements, Mayer is considered one of the most gifted and lauded camera engineers in history.

Visceral, vulnerable, and epic in both scale and subject, **THROUGH HELL TO HOLLYWOOD** is a tour-de-force achievement—a book worthy of the incredible man that inspires it.



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REVIEWS ON AMAZON

★★★★★ A triumph through the worst and the best of humanity

Reviewed in the United States on October 5, 2024

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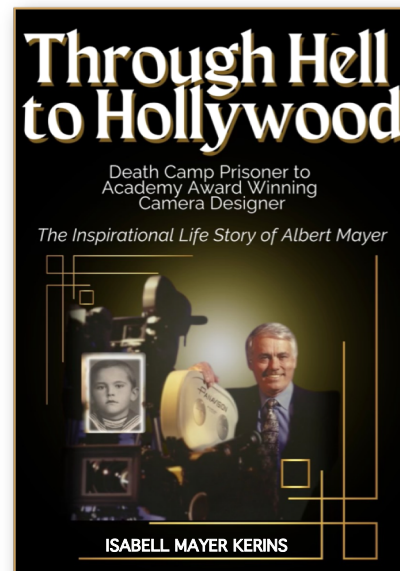
Isabell Mayer Kerins has created a moving historical and human story that the entire world needs to read, especially today. The story reminds us how scarily easy it is for some leaders to rise to power only to persecute, oppress, and dispose of humans, and the importance of recognizing this pattern throughout history in order for the world to protect humanity. This amazing story also shows us how ordinary people are not only resilient but can also persevere in the face of injustice, persecution, abuse, and trauma. I can already see this story as a major motion picture that will inspire multiple generations to remember the hate that exists in the world and why it is so important to create a more compassionate, kind, and inclusive future. Albert Mayer's life and family values of kindness, acceptance, and perseverance, even as he endured the horrors of violence and oppression as a child, is so important and incredibly powerful. Reading this story about a loving, peaceful family who was subjected to war and persecution brought tears of love, powerlessness, helplessness, loss, and love, again.

★★★★★ If you are seeking inspiration, this is the book for you....

Reviewed in the United States on October 8, 2024

Verified Purchase

A historically enlightening and deeply heartfelt portrayal of a man who quite literally epitomized the American dream... This book so beautifully depicts one man's journey through Hell to the very best version of himself as one of the great creators of our time. Moreover, it does so in a way that left me deeply inspired and aching to do the very same in my own life. Knowing this book was written by his daughter Isabell makes it all the more touching and meaningful as well. The details are simply incredible and create a landscape which pulls you into its center as if you were right there beside the main character, experiencing it all. What an inspirational life story to share with this world. I highly recommend this book to anyone seeking inspiration and light.



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1 BEST SELLER

MULTIPLE CATEGORIES

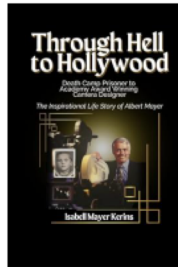
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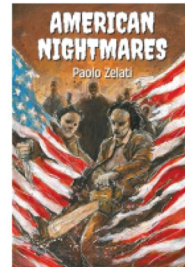
New Releases in Movie Industry

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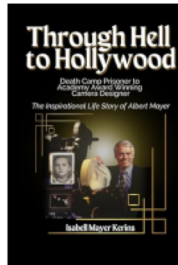
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EXCERPT FROM THE BOOK

PREFACE

I first found out about my father's history in 1978, at the age of fifteen, when his mother, Eva, visited from Germany and spent the holidays with us.

As Senior Vice President of Research and Development at Panavision, it was inspirational that my father contributed to the revolution of Hollywood by inventing the Panaflex, the motion picture camera used on most films and television projects throughout the world at that time. We watched movies and television shows to the very end to see if the Panavision logo would be part of the credits, and it usually was.

In 1944, three days after Christmas, Communists sent my grandfather to Russia as a prisoner, where he later died in a Ukrainian coal mine. The following Christmas, after World War II had ended, my father's remaining family members were interned in various Communist concentration camps located throughout Yugoslavia. My grandmother was separated from her two young sons, not knowing if they were still alive. My father had been only nine years old when they were torn apart. He had been sent to a death camp.

I recall being confused by this. We were German Catholics. Why would she be in a concentration camp? Why would my grandfather be sent to the Ukrainian coal mines? Why would my father be separated from his parents at such a young age, placed in a death camp and why had he not previously told us about his experiences as a child?

This story did not track with the history we had been taught in school and I was shocked to find out that my father had experienced a childhood completely unfamiliar to us.

Enter Predrag Bambic, a Serbian filmmaker, inspired by my father's legacy. Predrag met my father at Panavision in 2011 and immediately wanted to produce a documentary of the man he called "Hollywood's Tesla". His vision and hard work created a beautiful film, *Albert's Way*, that shared my father's life from his youth to his successful career as the Academy Award winning designer of the Panaflex motion picture movie camera and operating systems.

Predrag's documentary, first released at the Serbian Film Festival in June 2013, began a conversation in Europe regarding the aftermath of WWII that had been relatively unknown except by those who had lived through it, covering a topic few knew was missing, and exposing the fact that so much more of history needed telling.

Recent history, including the current wars in Ukraine and Israel, have made our family's ordeals even more important to share. We all tend to forget that those most vulnerable are the ones who pay the largest price. The innocent are often seen as "collateral damage". I feel strongly that this myopic vision of war must be changed. It is vital that we look at conflict from many different perspectives, especially from those not in control of the battlefield or the narrative. The experiences of my father's family provides us with this opportunity. The stories they have left behind show us how history leaves out many important details and how crucial it is to shine a light on the darkest corners of it...the corners where the children hide.

I am finally finishing the book forty-five years after beginning it. My father is gone, his light no more a part of this world, yet he is not forgotten. His legacy, and those of his extended family, are remarkable and must be shared. They all faced seemingly insurmountable hardship and lived a life shaped by trauma, death, hope and forgiveness firmly based on the cornerstones of faith, family, friendship and tradition. They never lost sight of what was important: their fellow human beings and making the world a better place by bringing love, songs and peace to those around them. May their stories inspire you as they have the countless people who knew them.

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