

### SHORT SYNOPSIS

1937. For nearly 30 years now, businessman JOHN RABE has been living with his wife DORA in the capital city of China, Nanking, where he heads the Siemens branch. It is difficult for him to hand over the reins of the branch office to his successor, FLIESS, and return to Berlin. He has learned to love the country, and he knows that while he is a man of influence here, at the Siemens headquarters in Berlin he will be only one employee among many. During the farewell hall in his honor Nanking is hombed by Japanese

airplanes following the Japanese army's capture of Shanghai. As panic breaks out, Rabe resolutely opens the company gates and offers refuge to the families of his employees.

The next morning, while the fires are being extinguished and the damage examined, the foreigners who stayed

in the city discuss what they should do in this dangerous situation. The German Jew and diplomat DR. ROSEN tells them about a safety zone for civilians that was set up in Shanghai. Right away VALERIE DUPRES, the director of the

Girls' College, thinks the idea is fantastic, and she nominates John Rabe as chairman, also because as a German he's more or less an "ally" of the Japanese. Her suggestion annoys DR. WILSON, senior physician of the local hospital, because he detests the "Nazi" Rabe. Actually, Rabe had wanted to leave for Germany the next day. But now he decides to stay, and immediately gets down to work.

He has learned to love the country, and he knows that while he is a man of influence here, at the Siemens headquarters in Berlin he will be only one employee among many. During the farewell ball in his honor, Nanking is bombed by Japanese While the Imperial Japanese Army unleashes a wave of brutality on the civilian population Rabe and his comrades courageously and skillfully negotiate with the Japanese and wrest a guarantee for a safety zone from them. Hundreds

of thousands of people pour into the zone – much more than expected. However, the Japanese continue to harass and attack the population, and it becomes more and more difficult to get supplies. Then the Japanese plan to use a pretense to storm the zone – and a race against time begins for Rabe...



#### ULRICH TUKUR (JOHN RABE)

Ulrich Tukur plays John Rabe, the German businessman who helped save over 250,000 civilians during the "Rape of Nanking" in 1937.

One of Germany's leading stage and screen stars, Tukur began showing an affinity for historical, socio-critical reality-based films early on in his career. His first roles in "The White Rose" and "Stammheim" were followed by "Bonhoeffer", Szabó's "Taking Sides", and the Academy Award-winning "The Lives of Others". He also starred alongside George Clooney in "Solaris"

and in Philipp Stölzl's "North Face".

## STEVE BUSCEMI (DR. ROBERT WILSON)

Steve Buscemi plays American doctor Robert O. Wilson, head of Nanking's hospital, who helped Rabe protect innocent citizens when the Imperial Japanese army invaded China's capital.

American star Steve Buscemi was born in New York in 1957 and has starred in such memorable films as Jim Jarmusch's "Mystery Train" as well as in Quentin Tarantino's "Reservoir Dogs" and "Pulp Fiction". He also appeared in the Coen Brothers' "Fargo" and "The Big Lebowski". Also among his credits are the Hollywood blockbusters "Con Air" and "Armageddon".

# JOHN RABE



## THE PRODUCTION



With images of unwavering bravery, infinite compassion and gut-wrenching intensity, Academy Award-winning director Florian Gallenberger (Quiero Ser, Shadows of Time) describes a wartime chapter nearly forgotten in the West: the role played by foreigners in the 1937 invasion of Nanking. Shot on original locations and in Shanghai and based on Rabe's diaries, the film stars Ulrich Tukur (The Lives of Others), Steve Buscemi (Fargo, Armageddon), Daniel Brühl (Good Bye Lenin!, Inglorious Basterds) and up-and-coming Chinese star Zhang Jingchu (Peacock, Rush Hour 3).

## ANNE CONSIGNY (VALERIE DUPRES)

Anne Consigny plays Valérie Duprès, the headmistress of Nanking's Girls' College. French-born Anne Consigny has been a much-applauded stage actress for many years now and only relatively recently launched her screen career. She was nominated for a César for her role in "Not Here To Be Loved" and starred in Julian Schnabel's 2008 Cannes winner "The Diving Bell and the Butterfly".



# DANIEL BRÜHL (DR. GEORG ROSEN)

Daniel Brühl plays the Jewish German diplomat Dr. Georg Rosen, who helps John Rabe set up the security zone.

Born in Barcelona in 1978, Daniel Brühl became one of the most successful young stars in Germany after his breakout role in "Schlaraffenland". After winning a German Film Award as Best Actor in 2002, he made his international breakthrough in "Good Bye Lenin", for which he received another German Film Award as well as a European Film Award.

One of the most visible young German actors of today, he has appeared in such outstanding films as "Love in Thoughts", "The Edukators", "The

Bourne Ultimatum", "Salvador" and "Krabat."

#### ZHANG JINGCHU (LANGSHU)

Zhang Jingchu plays Langshu, a student at Nanking's girls' school, who fearlessly documents the Japanese atrocities with her camera.

The newly crowned queen of Chinese films, Zhang made her impressive film debut in "Peacock", which won the "Silver Bear" at the Berlin International Film Festival in 2005. "Zhang displays a smouldering luminosity that keeps the camera longing for her even after she has exited the scene", wrote TIME magazine. Zhang has also starred in "Seven Swords" and "Jade Warrior", and continues to light up the screen in Chinese and international films.

