

CAMPUS LIFE

ONCE UPON A TIME... DURING WORLD WAR II

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Imagine Quentin Tarantino at fifteen as he sat in history class. Bored with his stuffy teacher's dull retelling of World War II, he gazes out the window with a beguiling grin on his face. His mind is rampantly running wild, formulating a power punch account of the War that you only wish you had studied in high school. It's an account featuring a hillbilly who delights in scalping Nazis, Terminator Jews with an inclination towards torture fetishes, a dashing British film critic as a war hero, beautiful blondes as the masterminds behind the French and German resistance, a charmingly pompous S.S. Jew Hunter, and an explosive end to the Third Reich. Say hello to *Inglourious Basterds*, straight from Tarantino's ass-kicking craving imagination.

In true Tarantino style, the film is split up into several chapters. Chapter one, "Once Upon a Time in Nazi Occupied France," pays homage to one of Tarantino's inspirations, Sergio Leone's spaghetti westerns. The chapter begins with Nazi colonel Hans Landa (Christopher Waltz) interrogating a dairy farmer about the Jews hiding in the area. Tensions between the two men are so uncomfortable you will squirm in your seat. Waltz is astounding as Landa; all eyes are on him as he takes on the persona of a diabolical gentleman who charms in four different languages. One Jewish girl, Shosanna Dreyfus (Melanie Laurent, a French actress of Jewish descent) escapes from Landa to eventually run a small theater in Paris, where

she plans a revenge of epic proportions.

In the next chapter, Tarantino introduces the Basterds, the ruthless group of Jewish G.I.'s led by Tennessee born and Smokey Mountain bred Lt. Aldo Raine (Brad Pitt). Seeing Pitt fully engulfed in the role of a former bootlegger who claims he has some "Injun" in him is almost hilarious, but it is obvious that Pitt loves being "Aldo the Apache" as Aldo demands from each of his commandos 100 Nazi scalps. Among Aldo's well-oiled killing machines are Donny Donowitz (Hostel director Eli Roth), known to the Nazis as "The Bear Jew" for his brutal bat swinging, and Hugo Stiglitz (German actor, Til Schweiger), who killed thirteen members of the Gestapo before joining the Basterds.

After being dropped in France, bloodthirsty for Nazi scalps, Raine and his Basterds join forces with suave British soldier Archie Hux (300's Michael Fassbender). Hux is a film critic who is German Cinema savvy and assigned to a secret mission - the brainchild of German Movie vixen Bridget Von Hammersmark (Diane Kruger), a spy for the Allied Forces. Hammersmark's plot just so happens to involve Shosanna Dreyfus's theater, where Shosanna has developed her own dream revenge. Both plans will converge at the theater on the night of the Third Reich's premier of their new propaganda film *Nation's Pride*, starring Nazi war hero Fredrick

Zoller (*Goodbye Lenin!*'s Daniel Bruhl). The premier will be a who's who of the Third Reich's top guns; Joseph Goebbels (Sylvester Groth) and even the Fuhrer himself, Herr Hitler (Martin Wuttke) will be in attendance. It's at the premier's dazzling climax where Landa masterfully orchestrates his brilliance and Tarantino rewrites history with the only authority he has: his sovereignty as a filmmaker.

Tarantino was true to the story that he very well may have dreamed up in high school history class, making *Inglourious Basterds* as authentic as possible by casting both German and Jewish actors and by having French, German, and Italian subtitles (some could even say that subtitles should have been provided for Raine's hillbilly dialect). Given the Oscar-worthy performance by Waltz coupled with the wonders associated with the genius that moviegoers today know as Quentin Tarantino, *Inglourious Basterds* is hard to resist. The question still remains, was Tarantino true to history? No, but at this point, who cares? Upon leaving the theater, Tarantino's former history teacher would no doubt be entertained and maybe even proud of his student's incredible Basterds. As Landa asks Raine in one of the final scenes, "What shall the history books read?" Tarantino has given his answer.

ask gigi

Dear Gigi,

My boyfriend's birthday is this weekend and I was going to take him out to dinner for a change, but my paycheck wasn't as much as I thought it would be so. My new plan is to make him dinner. I have one little problem: my cooking skills usually don't go beyond taking something from the freezer and putting it in the oven or boiling water. Can you give me an idea for an easy yet elegant dinner?

Sincerely,

On a Budget

Dear On a Budget,

Well, my dear, I don't usually get requests for dinner recipes, so this is something new and refreshing. One of the easiest dinner entrees is boneless skinless chicken breasts because there are so many simple ways you can prepare them. Since you have experience baking things in the oven, I would suggest that you do baked chicken with new potatoes and green beans. The farmers market is a great and inexpensive place to shop for vegetables. Here is the easiest recipe for this meal:

Baked Chicken with New Potatoes and Greens Beans (for 2)

2 pieces of boneless skinless chicken breast	4-5 small new potatoes
1 pound of fresh green beans	2 Tbsp Lemon juice
2-3 Tbsp Rosemary	

Set your oven at 400°F. Rinse chicken in cold water and place in a baking dish. Measure out lemon juice and pour equal amounts on each piece of chicken. Wash and quarter the potatoes and place them around the chicken in the baking dish. Sprinkle rosemary over both the chicken and the potatoes and place in oven. Bake for 15-20 minutes, or until chicken is cooked thoroughly. While the chicken and potatoes cook, take out your beans rinse them and snap off the top and bottom tip. Then place in saucepan of water and cook until they turn dark green.

I hope your boyfriend's birthday dinner is a success!

Sincerely,

Gigi