

DIRECTOR:

Edward Zwick

USA / 2008 / 35mm / Color /
137 min / English



DEFIANCE

PRODUCERS:

Pieter Jan Brugge and
Edward Zwick

PRODUCTION COMPANY:

Paramount Vantage,
Grosvenor Park and
Bedford Falls Company
Paramount Vantage
555 Melrose Ave.;
Chevalier Bldg., 2nd Fl.
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SCREENPLAY:

Ed Zwick and
Clay Frohman

DOP:

Eduardo Serra

EDITOR:

Steven Rosenblum

MUSIC:

James Newton Howard

CAST:

Daniel Craig, Liev Schreiber,
Jamie Bell, Alexa Davalos,
Allan Corduner
and Mark Feuerstein

The film is a different kind of World War II movie, one that looks at the Holocaust from a unique angle -- telling the true story of a group of Jews in Eastern Europe who fought back. On the run from the Germans and the local police, the three Russian Bielski brothers -- Tuvia, Zus, and Asael -- hide out deep in the forest. Their numbers swell as more and more refugees join them, coming together to form a community while also patrolling with guns and shooting the enemy to stay alive. But Tuvia and Zus have a falling-out over what future direction to take: Tuvia thinks it best to remain in the forest despite the coming vicious winter, but Zus wants to join the Russian resistance, which is aggressively attacking the Nazis. Complicating the situation are the women in their lives, known as forest wives -- Lilka, Bella, and young Chaya. As food grows scarce, diseases increase, and the Nazis become determined to find and kill them, the Bielski Otriad struggles to survive.

DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY:

Born in Winnetka, Illinois, Edward Zwick trained as an apprentice at the Academy Festival in Lake Forest. He later attended Harvard University, where he studied literature while continuing to write and direct for the theatre. Upon graduation, he was awarded a Rockefeller Fellowship to study in Europe. He is an award-winning director, producer and screenwriter, who has worked on a wide range of acclaimed film and television projects. As a producer, he won an Academy Award and a BAFTA Award for his work on the Best Picture Oscar winner *Shakespeare in Love*, and earned a Best Picture Oscar nomination for Steven Soderbergh's ensemble drama *Traffic*. He earned Golden Globe nominations for Best Director for *Glory* (1989) and *Legends of the Fall* (1994).



FILMOGRAPHY:

Paper Dolls	(1982)
Having It All	(1982)
Special Bulletin	(1983)
About Last Night	(1986)
Glory	(1989)
Leaving Normal	(1992)
Legends of the Fall	(1994)
Courage Under Fire	(1996)
The Siege	(1998)
The Last Samurai	(2003)
Blood Diamond	(2006)
Defiance	(2008)