



Son of Saul

by Miranda Morisette

Synopsis

A Jewish-Hungarian man imprisoned in Auschwitz during the Holocaust attempts to find a rabbi to give a young boy a proper Jewish burial.





Saul is a prisoner in Auschwitz who has the task of cleaning the gas chambers and retrieving any valuables from the deceased prisoners. One day he sees a Nazi doctor suffocate a young boy who is still alive. Saul volunteers to take the young boy's body to the prison doctor and claims the young boy is his son in an attempt to give him a proper Jewish burial.

On his journey to find a rabbi, Saul must navigate prisoners, Nazi soldiers, bribes, riots and executions. The majority of the film consists of Saul trying to stay alive in the constant face of death.

Sonderkommando Abraham starts a riot with prisoners and SS guards which allows Saul to obtain the young boy's body and escape to the woods.

Setting

Son of Saul takes place during the Holocaust in the concentration camp Auschwitz.



Characters



Saul Ausländer

Géza Röhrig



Abraham Warszawski

Levente Molnar

Saul

played by Géza Röhrig

Saul, our protagonist, is a Jewish-Hungarian man imprisoned in the Nazi concentration camp Auschwitz. When Saul spots a young boy who was recently deceased, he becomes determined to give the boy a proper Jewish burial. In Auschwitz, Saul cleans the gas chambers. Saul does not speak often and remains relatively quiet as he is accustomed to life in Auschwitz. He must complete many disturbing tasks to stay alive and frequently witnesses death.





Abraham

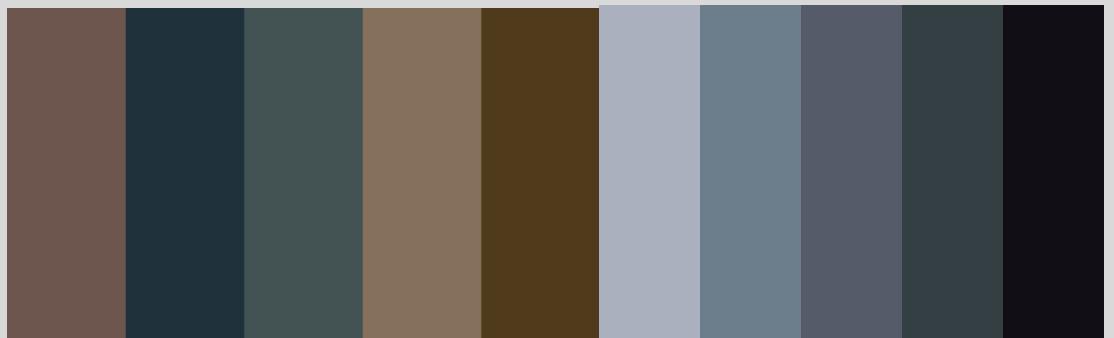
Played by [Levente Molnar](#)

Sonderkommando Abraham informs Saul of a rabbi named “the Renegade”. Abraham also instigates a riot with prisoners which helps Saul flee and obtain the young boy’s body.



Tone

The tone of *Son of Saul* is dark, disturbing and twisted. The film takes place in Auschwitz where people are enslaved and forced to perform physically-exhausting tasks to torture fellow prisoners. The film should include low key lighting to emphasize shadows and dark tones. Muted and washed out colors should be present throughout the entire film.



Tone

Similar to the relationship between the father and son in the film *Life is Beautiful*, we want the relationship between Saul and the young boy to give the audience something to root for. We want to give the audience hope as Saul goes on a journey to give this young boy a proper burial even though they did not know each other. While the deceased young boy is not able to actually form a relationship with Saul, we want to create a sense of unity within this twisted and disturbing environment as Saul asks strangers to help him find a rabbi to help bury this boy.



László Nemes

Writer & director

László Nemes is a Hungarian film director and screenwriter. *Son of Saul*, his debut film, won the Grand Prix award at the Cannes Film Festival and the Golden Globe for Best Foreign Language Film in 2015. Nemes worked as an assistant director in France and Hungary before studying at New York University's Tisch School of the Arts. Nemes currently has two feature films and three short films.

