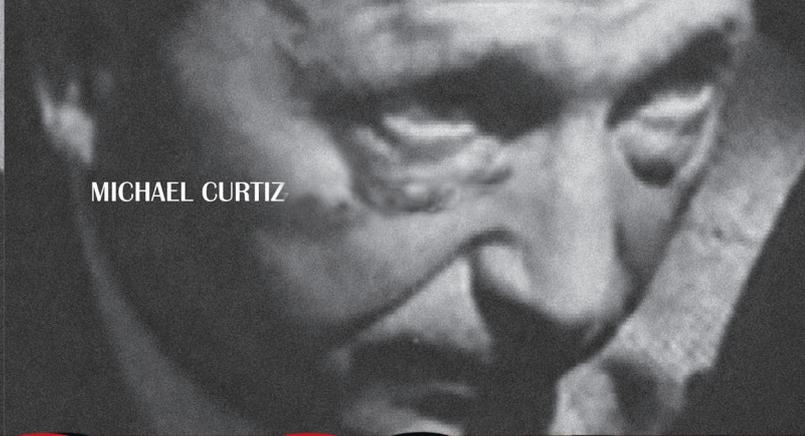
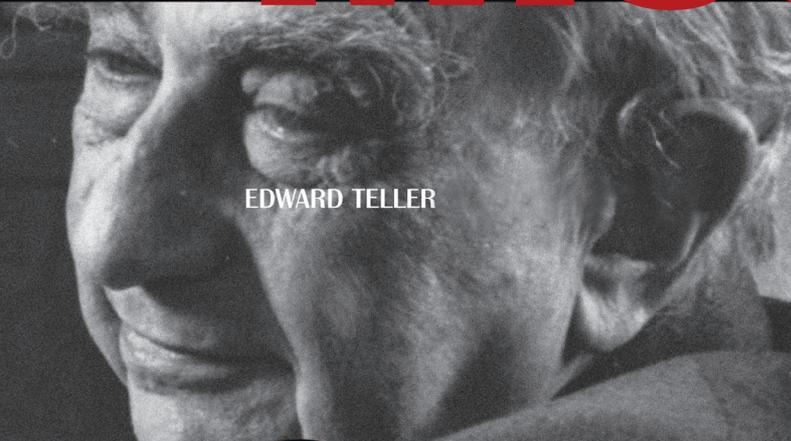


JOHN V. NEUMANN



MICHAEL CURTIZ

# THE MISSION

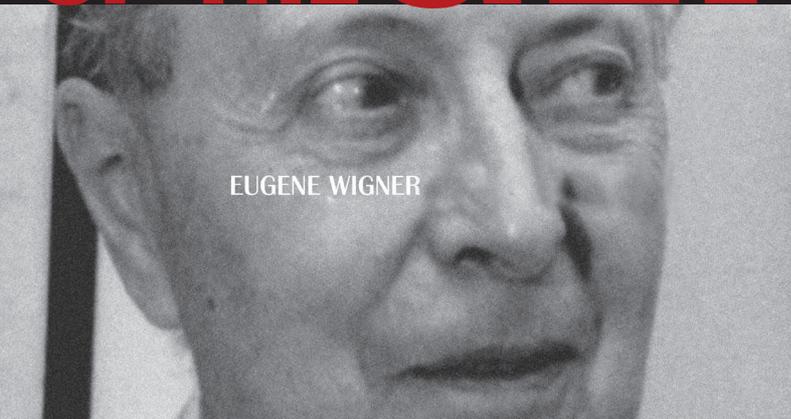


EDWARD TELLER



LEO SZILARD

# OF THE GENIUSES



EUGENE WIGNER



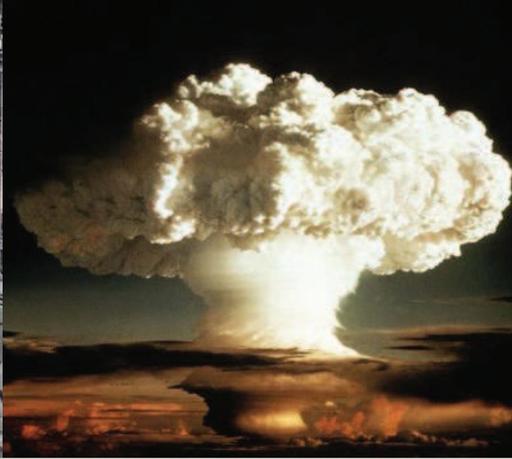
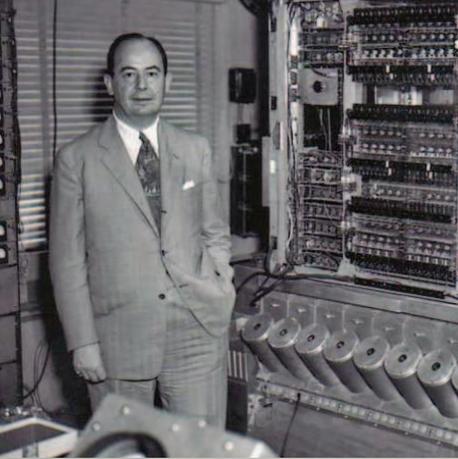
ROBERT CAPA

**6 Friends change the world.**

**Concept :**  
**Judith Lentze**  
**and**  
**Thomas Ammann**

with :  
MDR / Arte ; N24  
Mythberg Films / Hungary  
Nordmedia Fonds GmbH  
Max-Planck-Gesellschaft  
90 min. / 52 min. / 45 min.  
HD 16:9

**PRONUNENFILM**



This is the story of six friends, from the same town, from the same neighborhood, and the same schools: extremely talented and headstrong. They have to flee Europe. All six of them, one after the other. The destination: The United States of America. Subsequently all six will attain world renown and, with their inventions, with their work, will change the course of 20th century history. None of them want to give Europe up without a fight. NO SURRENDER. This film is the story of a band of six geniuses whose names still carry meaning to this day. Between 1919 and 1926, six young men leave Budapest; the families know each other, are personal friends. They all speak several languages and live middle-classed European lives: cosmopolitan and tolerant. When the men leave Budapest, they instinctively know that more is at stake than merely a hometown: they are losing European way of life. They all say to themselves: WE WILL NOT BE VICTIMS! We will not surrender! The stations of their lives in the years that follow are a step-by-step exodus from Europe: for the scientists connected to the

Max Planck Institute and the film students from Babelsberg the stations are first Vienna and then Berlin. Then, after 1933, Paris, Ellis Island and the USA. Toward the end of the Second World War and during the fifties, all six will change the course of history. To this day the world has not forgotten their names. Janos Lajos Neumann becomes **JOHN VON NEUMANN**, a mathematical genius, and the inventor of the Game Theory, upon which all strategies for a nuclear conflict, are based, as well as being the father of the first computer. Ede Teller becomes **EDWARD TELLER**, contributed to the invention of the atom bomb and, in the fifties, of the hydrogen bomb. Jenő Pal Wigner becomes **EUGENE PAUL WIGNER**, he receives the Nobel Prize in Physics. **LEO SZILLARD** keeps his name and becomes the driving force behind the "Manhattan Project" the US atom bomb research program. Endre Ernő Friedmann becomes **ROBERT CAPA**, the most famous war photographer of all time. Mihály Kertész Kaminer becomes **MICHAEL CURTIZ**, who, with **CASABLANCA** makes the most famous

propaganda film of all times, cited by Steven Spielberg as one of his film icons. Throughout their lives the path of these seven men keep crossing; men who swore not to watch passively while the ideals of their youth are destroyed. They keep in touch, meet in cafés, are aware of each other's comings and goings. The film condenses these seven biographies into a fascinating chronicle of a **BAND OF MEN** who wanted to challenge the twentieth century: **NO SURRENDER**. And they are all so genial. So reckless and headstrong, that they not only intervene in history, but also change the world. However, the film is not concerned with the moral classification of single decisions (to be specific the atom and the hydrogen bomb which has been a topic for many other documentaries). This film is concerned with the story of a band of men, whose members become world famous because they all had a common drive. The film tells the story in the form of an enthralling documentary thriller with a clear thread: six friends against an entire century: **NO SURRENDER**.

