



A WOLO ENTERTAINMENT PRODUCTION

# FREEDOM'S FURY

## Tribeca Film Festival Review



Welcome by:  
Lucy Liu, Executive Producer  
Colin Keith Gray (The Sibs), Director/Screenwriter  
Kristine Lacey, Producer  
Megan Raney Aarons, (The Sibs), Cinematographer  
Michael Rogers, Editor, Post-Production Supervisor

**"Freedom's Fury"** is a powerful feature documentary about the Hungarian Revolution of 1956 and the "Bloodiest Game in Olympic History." In this hard-hitting film, the story is finally told about the fateful fall in 1956 when Hungary exploded in a people power revolt and climaxes with the infamous water polo showdown between Hungary and the Soviet Union at the Melbourne Olympics. Now known as the "Blood in the Water Match," the documentary follows the story of the young star of the Hungarian Olympic water polo team, Ervin Zador, who finds himself the unwitting focal point of one of the most politicized sports matches ever played.



In "Freedom's Fury," the history of the brutal Soviet occupation of this small, Eastern European nation at the end of World War Two is interwoven with the history of Hungary's emergence as an international water polo powerhouse at this time. The journey of Zador and the 1956 Hungarian water polo team to the Melbourne Olympics then becomes the film's through-line as "Freedom's Fury" explores the larger human tragedy of a popular, democratic uprising that is brutally crushed by the Soviet Red Army in November 1956, just two weeks before the Olympics begin in Australia. Over 15,000 people were killed or executed.

As the film builds to its emotional climax, we are introduced to the politician, Imre Nagy, who leads Hungary in its ill-fated show-down with the Soviet Union in the streets of Budapest. Nagy becomes the enduring symbol of Hungarian freedom and independence after he is arrested and executed for leading Hungary's brief attempt at independence. Zador then becomes the poignant hero of the most famous match ever played in water polo when his eye is split open by a Russian sucker punch at the end of the hard fought semi-final match. Zador and half his teammates then decide to defect after the Olympics rather than return to the oppression in their homeland.

In the final act, the film shows how the Hungarian Revolution becomes an enduring symbol of freedom for oppressed people in all lands and directly impacts the total collapse of communism in 1989. "Freedom's Fury" then plays witness to an historic and emotional reunion in the summer of 2002 as Zador returns to Budapest with all 8 surviving members of the Hungarian 1956 team, as well as the surviving Russian players. For the first time since their epic semi-final showdown nearly 50 years earlier, the players reconnect and reminisce. "Freedom's Fury" ends with a provocative exploration of the struggle for freedom in today's turbulent, post 9-11 world and concludes with a lasting image of hope for these uncertain times.



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**Lucy Liu, Mark Spitz, Tony Azevedo, Kristine Lacey, Michael Rogers, Megan Raney Aarons, Ervin Zador, Béla Lipták, Ben Quittner, Károly Nagy, Colin Keith Gray**



**Lucy Liu, Mark Spitz and Tony Azevedo**



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**Béla Lipták, Ben Quittner, Károly Nagy and Colin Keith Gray**



**Kristine Lacey and Colin Keith Gray**



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**Megan Raney Aarons and Lucy Liu**



**Ervin Zador and Mark Spitz**



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**Michael Rogers and Ben Quittner**



**Károly Nagy and Béla Lipták**



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## POST-SCREENING CELEBRATION

*Hosted by Lucy Liu,  
Wolo Entertainment, GRAiNEY Pictures  
& The Moving Picture Institute*





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**Ervin Zador in front of his famous, bloody photo of 1956...**

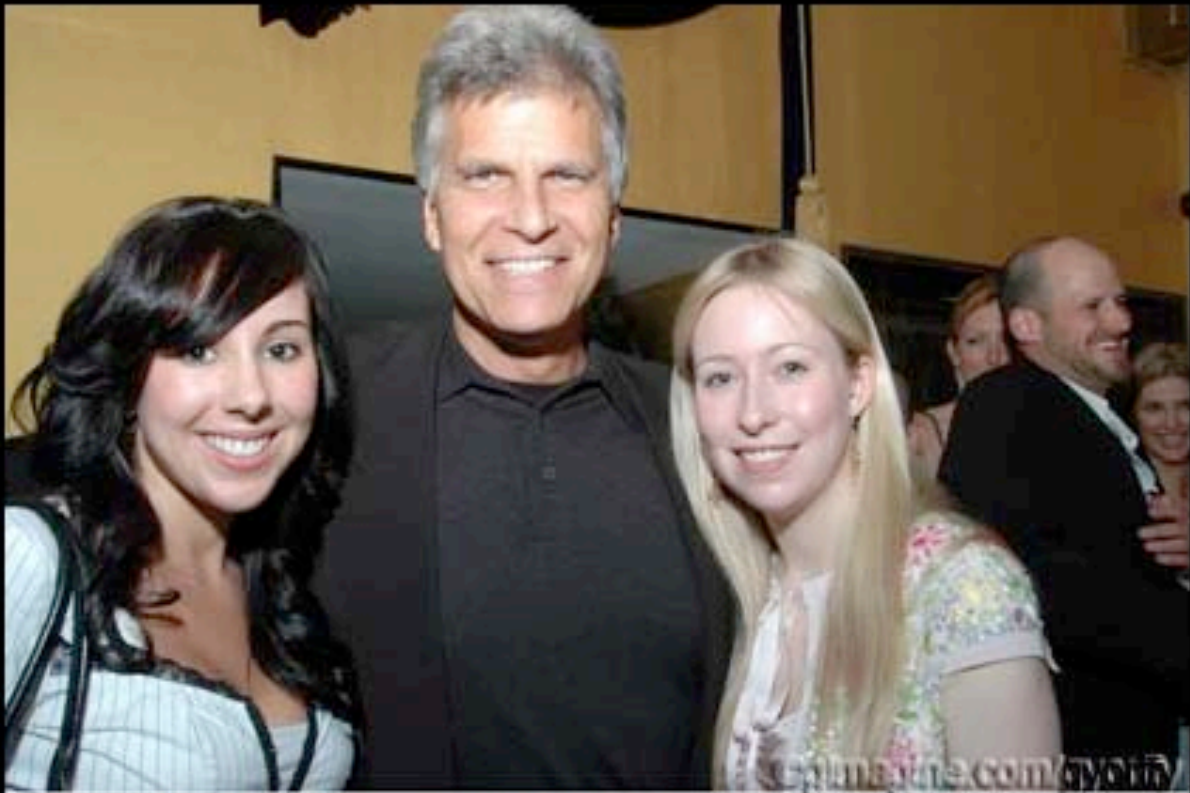


**Ervin Zador with Kristine Lacey...**



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**Mark Spitz with Lyn Alyson Holmes and Brittany Bauer**



**Michael Rogers**



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**Colin Keith Gray and Megan Raney Aarons with Dawn Young, who has just finished a water polo documentary "Beneath the Surface"; Her son, Wolf Wigo, is the young water polo player prominently featured in Freedom's Fury**



**Colin, Ben Quittner and Megan**

**Quittner, a former member of the Hungarian National Water Polo Team, Colin Gray's former coach and friend; Colin first heard from Ben about the legendary "bloody game" between Hungary and the Soviet Union at the 1956 Melbourne Olympics semi-final**



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