

CASABLANCA

Of the Good Times During the Bad Times

SYNOPSIS 250 words

„*This is the beginning of a beautiful friendship*“. That is one of the most famous sentences in the end of the Hollywood classic “Casablanca”.

The documentary film „Casablanca – Of the Good Times During the Bad Times“ tells the story of three people who are stranded in Casablanca, French Morocco, on the escape from Nazi Germany and forge a friendship, which gives them hope and human warmth during these hard times.

First we meet Sophie Freud, Sigmund Freud’s granddaughter. She and her mother had to separate from the rest of the family. She describes her time in Casablanca as a rather joyful one.

Then we meet Kurt Grossmann, a falsifier. He was imprisoned at various labour camps and eventually worked as kitchen chef, since his greatest fear was to starve.

Next we meet Fritz Koenig, the soccer-fanatic concentration camp-prisoner. He made his living in Casablanca as a black marketer, spy and quasi-pimp.

At last there is Flor Coriat. Her family gave refuge to many immigrants in Casablanca just like Kurt and Sophie. They were given a new home for a while and deep friendships evolved.

Today, 60 years later, they meet again and have – perhaps for the last time a meal of “Couscous” together, just like they used to have more than half a century ago at the house of the Coriat family.

(Daniel Ritter, Vienna 2004)