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## Searching for Victor "Young" Perez: The Boxer of Auschwitz

REVIEW

Reviewed on September 15, 2017 | Video

Perez (1912–45) lived a short, eventful, and improbable life. A Tunisian Jewish boxer, he became a European sensation as World Flyweight Champion in 1931 and perished in the Holocaust. There have been two recent films about his life: a solid dramatic presentation (LJ 10/1/15) and now a fast-paced and compelling documentary featuring European actor and history sleuth Tomer Sisley. Viewers follow the energetic Sisley as he pursues every lead to provide insight into the life of Perez. He finds Perez's old boxing buddies as he re-creates the dark anti-Semitic milieu in pre-World War II France. Perez seems to have retained his shine and attraction even as his career declined. The narration details Perez's transfer from France to the concentration camps and his demise on a death march when he was shot for trying to help others. Ultimately, the film is a hopeful one as viewers are introduced to some incredible survivors and the boxer's nephews, now older men full of stories about their uncle. VERDICT: This film fascinates on many levels as it tackles issues of identity and character.—Paul Kaplan, Lake Villa Dist. Lib., IL