

DISTANT TEMPLE

90 minutes documentary film by János TARI
English subtitle and text with timecode

LOGO: ANTROPRODUKCIÓ

00:01:09	5762/2002
00:01:48	MAKÓ
00:02:00	TÁVOLI TEMPLOM DISTANT TEMPLE
00:03:21	They were sorely tried, humiliated and expelled
00:03:25	from their native town during the Holocaust.
00:03:28	Despite of this they come every year and express.
00:03:35	their adherence to this place.
00:03:42	Once upon a time
00:03:44	a strong community lived here
00:03:46	and took an important part in the development of this town.
00:05:18	MOSES VORHAND RABBI STREET 15. EX CHIEF RABBI OF MAKÓ
00:06:59	5762/2002
00:07:42	We came in the name of our fathers to pray
00:07:52	and inaugurate this ancient holy place.
00:08:01	Let our lot be love and peace
00:08:07	like it says up there:

00:08:21	OUR FATHER AND KING OPEN YOUR GATES FOR OUR PRAYERS
00:08:32	Our Lord let it happen!
00:09:42	This temple was the orthodox temple for several years
00:09:46	and we thank everybody who helped to make it so beautiful
00:10:05	Now people have a place here
00:10:09	when they come over from America and Israel
00:10:12	and they can pray
00:10:54	5761/2001
00:12:18	5754/1994
00:12:42	5761/2001
00:14:50	5754/1994
00:15:53	You're making it of him, he's making it of you. If I making the video, nobody sees me, if you are making the video, you are not be seen. I told you already in Makó the all film that you made, everything is very nice, but we can't see you. I have to take the food, I have food for 150 people, something are frozen, something are refrigerated, wein, grapejuice, fish, meat, backed stuff, frozen stuff, everything.
00:19:52	This is a special pray, everyone who flies on airplanes, has to say this pray, we saw everybody walked on...
00:25:20	Here we remember each of the 88 Jews of Makó
00:25:25	who werw dragged from Makó to Auschwitz,
00:25:31	and werw killed in various death camps
00:25:37	and could never come home

00:36:08	5751/1991	It's a family celebration. We invite each other
00:36:11		In Makó a kind family invited us once a year...
00:36:16		...and all the children went there
00:36:20		LONDON
00:37:00		NEW YORK
00:37:20		Do you know Moise Weisz?
00:37:50		This is the gravestone of Moise Forhant
00:37:58		This is Salamon from Makó
00:38:05		-Who lives here? -Most are orthodox Jews.
00:38:11		-Is Williamsburg special?
00:38:13		-Most residents are Hungarian Jews
00:38:18		Others are Spanish and Puer to Rican
00:38:29		-Is Hungarian spoken? -Certainly.
00:38:33		You'll hear Hungarian spoken everywhere
00:38:36		Most of the young people don't know it much...
00:38:40		...but others, like my daughter, speak it well
00:38:46		We fled from Hungary...

00:38:49		...and climbed the mountains all night
00:38:53		We kept the children quiet with sleeping pills
00:38:59		We walked through the mountains all night...
00:39:05		What do these pictures show?
00:39:09		I couldn't say
00:39:16		There's a photo of the grave of the rabbi
00:39:21		You probably went there like us
00:39:23	5748/1988	MAKÓ
00:39:31		Whose grave are you visiting?
00:39:33		That of my wife's grandparents
00:39:41		My mother's buried there, so I go home sometimes
00:40:00	5751/1991	NEW YORK I settled in Williamsburg, among friends from Makó
00:40:05		They helped me, so it was much easier to settle down
00:40:11		What was your work in Makó?
00:40:15		I worked in the Béke co-operative
00:40:21		Before nationalization we had a textile shop
00:40:28		What was its name?

00:40:31		Paskesz Textile, Fur and Textile
00:40:36		It was at 15 Main Square
00:40:40		They took it from you?
00:40:42		Yes, they did
00:40:46		In the 1950s...
00:40:49		...all the „private properties” were seized
00:40:56		What could you do in Makó then?
00:40:59		Well, the co-operative was formed...
00:41:03		...and we did our best, until we emigrated
00:41:08		How long have you been doing it?
00:41:11		Thirty years. I learned this trade in America
00:41:15		I learnt from a man who knew the trade
00:41:20		His factory was in trouble when I joined him
00:41:24		He couldn't pay me for a couple of weeks
00:41:29		He said: Let's be partners
00:41:33		So that's how it was for some years...
00:41:38		...then I set up on my own
00:43:06	5749/1989	MAKÓ

00:43:29		We were 11 sisters and brothers
00:43:32		and got together at Hanukah evening.
00:43:37		We remember our childhood and what we've seen in our family home
00:43:43		Unfortunately now we are alone
00:43:46		Religion is a private matter
00:43:50		Of course, it would be very good to belong to a community
00:43:54		But we have to accept that there isn't one
00:43:57		Still, as long as I live here i'll observe traditions
00:44:02	5751/1991	I did without many things so I could make the trip
00:44:08		Are you going this year?
00:44:10		Yes, we leave for Makó on Sunday
00:44:14		To Budapest on Thursday then to Makó on Sunday
00:44:28	5751/1991	MAKÓ
00:45:04		This was the main square, the market
00:45:09		There were tables on both sides, and a fish-tank...
00:45:14		and you can see fish in the net I'm holding
00:45:17	5751/1991	JERUSALEM
00:45:18		Here are the scales

00:45:20	My parents and brother who went to Jerusalem in 1938
00:45:29	This is how we sold fish every Thursday and Friday
00:45:35	...and kept them alive in the Maros river
00:45:38	There were huge compounds for fish in the river
00:45:43	We brought as many as we needed for the market
00:45:49	Weisz the fishmonger
00:45:55	People of the same name were known by their trade
00:46:12	She was upset
00:46:15	Why, what's the problem?
00:46:17	the mother is afraid, the bride doesn't mind
00:46:25	She's afraid she'll be seen in the film
00:46:31	She doesn't want to appear in a movie
00:46:37	Is it forbidden by religion?
00:46:40	Yes, you are not allowed to be filmed
00:48:17	Could you take pictures?
00:49:07	Men and women are never together
00:49:09	There used to be a dividing wall back there

00:49:13	-They're in the same room -But they don't mix
00:49:21	Did the man pray at the wedding, too?
00:49:24	Yes, we prayed together
00:49:28	There is a prayer for the evening, and for the night
00:50:23	Born in Makó, but didn't want to die there
00:50:28	And this is her daughter
00:50:33	She wants to visit Makó. You can take her
00:50:42	In my youth, I hated and despised Makó
00:50:46	My greatest wish was to get away from there...
00:50:51	...as soon as possible
00:50:54	My father was jobless for 10 years...
00:50:59	...we lived from day to day, and not only that...
00:51:04	...I was somewhat apart from my own community...
00:51:09	...as the others were very religious
00:51:14	We weren't as religious as them
00:51:18	After the war, I returned from deportation...
00:51:24	...though my mother never returned...
00:51:27	...and my social position

00:51:32	didn't really change But I was happy, from about 1945 to 1949
00:51:37	Then, while I was happy...
00:51:41	...my feelings towards Makó changed
00:51:46	I dreamt, like any man...
00:51:50	...of returning to my home town a changed man...
00:51:55	...as the English say: „Local boy makes good”
00:51:58	Everyone wants to show off his success back home

00:52:04	5750/1990	LONDON
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Foreigners generally, when they go to a new country, they nearly always starting in the catering business, because the host countries people, do not like to work in the catering business, because quite badly paid. I had little capital, what I... and I asked loan from the bank, so I bought little sandwichbar with two-third of the bank, and one-third of mine. And so I started. My two brother-in-laws there are in the launderette business. And I saw it, it is quite successful. I was already getting older, and the launderette helped me, because it doesn't need such a physical effort, like the sandwichbar. So I spend quite few years getting up three o'clock in the morning, and I had a young family, and it took it toll, and the launderette helped to earn money with a less physical effort.

Everything a la Hungarian, the most beautiful, the famous Hungarian „dobos”, or poppyseed cake, or cake of the house is Loui this a special cake, this is a delight of everybody. And Hungarian gulashsoup fantastic, people come around here from the other side of the town to have a Hungarian gulashsoup here.

The first 24 years of my life I spend in Hungary. Now my biggest part of my life in England I spend more like than in Hungary. And in Israel all my friends there and I feel alright, but nowhere really-really I'm at home anymore, because I'm torned between three countries and even between three languages.

00:55:32	5751/1991	TELAVIV
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00:56:05	Good morning!
00:56:07	You're back home again. What's new?
00:56:11	The weather's not as

	forecast, as usual
00:56:26	-An Italian arrived -In Budapest?
00:56:30	-No, in London
00:56:34	You meet here every weekend?
00:56:37	Hungarians always meet here
00:56:41	We meet here every Saturday...
00:56:45	...visitors and residents
00:56:50	About 10 of us meet here every week
00:56:55	We discuss world events, politics in Israel...
00:56:59	...we solve all problems, yet Sunday's just the same
00:57:04	At least every problem's solved here on Saturday
00:57:07	Religious problems, political, economic...
00:57:11	...international problems, everything
00:57:14	They even considered taking minutes
00:57:21	These two will tease each other to death
00:57:27	We've been together here for 40 years
00:57:34	Forty-two
00:57:39	-Is this the Hungarian table here? -Yes

00:57:46	If anyone who doesn't speak Hungarian sits here...
00:57:50	he soon apologizes and goes to another table
00:57:56	No matter how many years a Hungarian's been here...
00:58:00	...Hungarians will always talk in Hungarian
00:58:09	When I first came here I was very unhappy...
00:58:12	...reciting poetry to myself, such as:
00:58:19	„If you find a new country, you must find a new heart”
00:58:25	I was in Israel...
00:58:28	...from '64 to '71, then I went back to England
00:58:34	Seven years here, seven years there... rootless
00:58:39	JERUSALEM
00:58:41	This was the border, with a barbed wire fence
00:58:48	This was no man's land Here started Jordania
00:58:53	There were arab soldiers, we didn't come here much
00:59:00	We heard the muezzin call them to prayer
00:59:07	Few lived here. All those houses are new
00:59:14	This was the last house, the Swedish school

00:59:55	This block was called the Hungarian Houses
01:00:00	They settled here relatively early...
01:00:03	...from the beginning of the century, until today...
01:00:08	...or, rather, until the fifties
01:00:12	Mainly from Hungary and Ruthenia
01:00:19	Very religious, orthodox Jews
01:00:54	Don't you want to film there?
01:01:02	Are you Markovics?
01:01:04	No... there are two Markovics
01:01:11	-Both from Hungary? -Yes
01:01:18	Not there. Here
01:01:32	-Where is the other? -Upstairs.
01:01:52	-Where does Markovics live? -I don't know
01:01:59	-Where does Markovics live? -Upstairs
01:02:08	I don't want to be filmed
01:02:15	Go down there at the corridor
01:02:42	You are Markovics? Shalom
01:02:47	Are you Goldman?
01:02:50	Markovics is my father-in-

	law. He'll be here soon
01:02:59	He was my friend
01:03:02	We grew up together
01:03:07	Where do you live now?
01:03:09	We were deported to Dachau together
01:03:13	I live in London, near his sister
01:03:19	He will be back soon
01:03:30	You can ask down there about him
01:03:43	Do you speak Hungarian?
01:03:48	I can if you want
01:03:50	-Where are you from? -Slovensko, near Komarom
01:03:58	Komarno, in Slovakia, and Komarom, near Budapest
01:04:04	-Have you lived here long? -Very long
01:04:08	Do you know Uncle Markovics, from Makó?
01:04:12	My grandfather is from Makó
01:04:16	My mother's father. Maybe you knew him
01:04:21	Wéber the onion-vendor
01:04:25	-Where do you come from? -Makó
01:04:27	-You've come from there? -No, I live in London now
01:04:31	Who are you making the film for?

01:04:35	He's making a film about the history of the Makó Jews
01:04:39	-Are you Jewish? -Of course
01:04:43	He's a Jew from Szerdahely
01:04:47	The teacher Reichard's wife was from there, near the Mikveh
01:04:54	What's her name?
01:04:59	I don't know her maiden name...
01:05:03	...but she came from Szerdahely, or Makó
01:05:07	-Where do you live now? -In London
01:05:10	Are you religious?
01:05:14	You could say so, as it comes
01:05:18	Did you put on tefillin when you were bar mitzvah?
01:05:22	Even after that. But my house is kosher
01:05:29	Yes. Milk and meat
01:05:34	Does your wife light Shabbes candles?
01:05:35	It's mainly she who is kosher, so I am
01:05:42	I pray every Friday night, I make kiddush
01:05:48	Did you put on tefillin today? Come! It only takes a minute
01:05:56	I'm alright. I've done it today. The Lubavitch caught me

01:06:00	-You see they the Lubavitch caught him
01:06:05	I am also Lubavitch
01:06:08	I quarrel with him. All they care about is tefillin
01:06:16	When you write a sentence, you must begin somewhere
01:06:23	But they do great things
01:06:28	Won't you be going to America?
01:06:30	No, maybe next year
01:06:33	Is anyone from Makó here in the Hungarian Quarter?
01:06:35	-Haim Weisz. -He isn't here
01:06:41	Did you know Markovics?
01:06:44	He came back from America. Joszi is here
01:06:49	Where is Joszi?
01:06:51	I'll try to ring him so you can speak to him
01:06:57	-Is he Jewish? -They are not
01:07:01	He is English and he is Hungarian
01:07:05	He doesn't look Hungarian?
01:07:07	As long as they don't harm Jews...
01:07:11	BNEI BRAQ
01:07:41	A religious centre for

	the Makó people in Bnei Braq
01:07:46	This is the „temple” of the Makó community
01:07:50	We cannot go in without a scarf
01:07:58	<i>Cause the offspring of David to flourish...</i>
01:08:02	<i>...and let his horn be exalted by Thy salvation...</i>
01:08:07	<i>...because we wait for Thy salvation all the day...</i>
01:09:01	The old man was beaten terribly and he died
01:09:08	No one could leave the ghetto for the funeral
01:09:12	Finally, they let 10 out, so he could be buried
01:09:17	Everyone ran to the ghetto gates, crying
01:09:22	They weren't allowed any further
01:09:26	-It's his memorial day? -Yes, this is the day of his azkara
01:09:29	Why did they beat him?
01:09:31	Because he was the Jewish rabbi
01:09:35	They interrogated him at the police station
01:09:39	What year was that?
01:09:41	1944. In May
01:09:45	Let's see, when is the day of Peter and Paul?

01:09:53	June 19-20th, the day of the bread
01:09:56	That day they took us to Auschwitz
01:10:39	This is „azkara”, in memory of the dead
01:10:44	It was painful, but such a long time has passed
01:10:50	In that time I’ve become 67...
01:10:55	...and those who disappeared...
01:10:59	...would mostly have gone now, anyway
01:11:03	The people I met there are very religious
01:11:08	I allways stood out, but I understand them more...
01:11:15	...as I understand myself
01:11:18	I wasn’t quite at home, but not a stranger
01:11:23	A strange environment, I couldn’t live there...
01:11:29	...but not so strange, it’s also familiar
01:11:34	They remember me as the son of a Jewish teacher
01:11:40	They remembered me when I told them my name
01:11:46	They knew who they were talking to...
01:11:52	...they knew it better

than myself

01:12:15	Last time we were there others came from abroad
01:12:21	They remember the day, and they come to Bnei Braq
01:12:26	This is the only place where Jews have roots...
01:12:30	...where the word Jerusalem...
01:12:34	...meant something throughout history
01:12:40	You know the centuries- old Jewish prayer
01:12:43	„Next year in Jerusalem”
01:12:48	What does it mean?
01:12:52	They hoped to see the Holy Land one day
01:12:56	Don’t forget...
01:12:59	...that for centuries the Jews were restricted...
01:13:03	...and were not free to go where they liked
01:13:08	They had no free choice
01:13:11	I feel at home in Tel Aviv
01:13:14	I’m not saying I wouldn’t prefer some changes...
01:13:18	...but that’s true of every city
01:13:21	The first house here was built only in 1909...
01:13:29	...so you can see how

	much has happened
01:13:33	This is Makó. The house, the flat...
01:13:39	...the courtyard of the Jewish community
01:13:42	The building was opposite the Reform Jewish school
01:13:48	There's the synagogue, too
01:13:51	It was a very pretty little synagogue
01:13:55	It was demolished, they said it was falling down
01:14:01	But it was sturdy, it dated from 1914 only
01:14:06	It was politics, that was why it was demolished
01:14:11	Cynically, they built the communist H.Q. there
01:14:18	We are standing in front of the school
01:14:22	The centre of Jewish life in the late forties
01:14:27	Well, Zionist Jewish life
01:14:33	Were you and Eszti Zionists?
01:14:37	Yes, the time was ripe for it
01:14:41	When we saw how things were in Makó...
01:14:46	...we knew we had nothing more to do there
01:14:52	When the Zionists turned up in Makó...

01:14:55	...we were ready to join them
01:14:58	Our parents stayed, we might never see them again
01:15:03	A year later...
01:15:06	...my father's pharmacy was nationalized
01:15:10	3000 Jews were allowed to leave Hungary...
01:15:15	...people over 55 years old
01:15:21	My parents got into this group...
01:15:24	...so my father escaped being imprisoned
01:15:29	It's said he offered the pharmacy to the town
01:15:33	I don't think they waited for an offer, they took it
01:15:45	So ended our life in Makó
01:15:51	We never expected to return there
01:15:56	You said that Eszti didn't want to speak Hungarian
01:16:00	She was so affected
01:16:03	Yes, she had an extreme reaction
01:16:10	We were Hungarian, but they said: „You are Jews”
01:16:26	Here we all are at the Maagan kibbutz
01:16:33	You see, we had nothing

	then...
01:16:37	...just shorts and sandals
01:16:56	Once there was nothing to hide the Heights
01:17:01	No trees, no flowers, only weeds and stones
01:17:08	The lake is grey today, you can't see its end
01:17:13	You can see the Golan Heights well from here
01:07:20	We built everything east of the restaurant
01:17:30	At first we lived in wooden huts...
01.17.34	...then one-room flats, then two-room flats
01:17:38	Now the flats are bigger, especially for families
01:17:45	It's... what's the word in Hungarian?
01:17:52	Threatened
01:17:54	It's a bird... can you see it?
01:17:58	Somebody is chasing it
01:18:03	Have you found your homeland here?
01:18:07	This is my country. I have no other, it is ours
01:18:13	I needn't be ashamed of being Jewish here
01:18:22	I can't find the right words

01:18:30		I needn't deny my identity, that's it
01:18:43		This is a simple pattern, no different colours
01:18:48		Something light for summer
01:19:02		You work every day?
01:19:04		Yes, from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. Except when I go to class
01:19:39		If someone's hit, he becomes deformed
01:19:43		You see, this is the wound
01:19:47		I tried to depict it with blue marks...
01:19:51		...a beaten body
01:19:59		It's abstract, it means nothing to most people
01:20:06		But I had to make it...
01:20:10		...because we saw so much brutality
01:20:15		I had to make it. I worked on it for a year
01:20:25	5749/1989	MAKÓ
01:20:27		I arranged to buy them 2 months ago
01:20:31		He said he'd deliver them on Friday
01:20:35		I had to accept although it was too early
01:20:39		I'd never have gotten such good ones

	at the market
01:21:55	The kosher butcher kills them and I clean them
01:22:00	take out the three „trefli” veins.
01:22:07	I has to soak for half an hour in water
01:22:10	then for an hour in salt, finally I cut them to pieces.
01:22:18	These will be enough not only for the New Year celebrations
01:22:22	but for three months
01:22:25	We only buy meat from the kosher butcher
01:22:28	or from Budapest but beef can be very expensive
01:22:37	In 1957 there was no kosher butcher at Makó
01:22:55	This is the first vein,
01:23:01	and this is the second
01:23:15	...and the third.
01:23:22	Blessed art Thou, Our Lord, King of the Universe...
01:23:26	...who brought forth bread from the earth
01:24:07	Honey...
01:24:09	...because it sweetens the coming year...
01:24:12	...so there will be peace and tranquillity

01:24:17	We ask this of God on New Year's Day
01:24:27	Our feast days are sad no one is left now
01:24:33	...with song and psalm they bless and praise...
01:24:38	...glorify and revere...
01:24:41	...the name of the Divine King
01:24:46	They take the yoke of the Kingdom of Heaven...
01:24:52	...and offer praise to their Creator
01:24:57	In tranquil joy of spirit, with pure speech...
01:25:02	...all respond and exclaim with awe...
01:25:05	...holy,holy,holy is the Lord of Hosts...
01:25:09	...the earth is full of His glory...
01:25:25	Hear, O Israel
01:25:30	The Lord is our God
01:25:33	The Lord is One
01:25:38	One is our God
01:25:42	Great is our Lord
01:25:46	Holy and awesome is His Name
01:25:52	Praise the Lord with me
01:25:56	Let us exalt His name
01:26:02	Thine, O Lord, is the

	greatness...
01:26:07	...the power and the glory...
01:26:12	...and the victory...
01:26:16	...and the majesty
01:26:23	All that is in heaven and earth...
01:26:30	...is Thine
01:26:32	He who blessed Abraham, Isaac and Jacob...
01:26:39	...bless this Ephraim, son of Michael
01:27:37	Makó is a small town in southern Hungary...
01:27:43	...yet it has allways played a major role...
01:27:47	...in the region's life
01:27:52	Its streets and squares always bustled with life
01:27:57	Most people were Catholic or Calvinist...
01:28:02	...but one-tenth of the community was Jewish
01:28:39	The Jews were important in small industry...
01:28:44	...agriculture, banking and foreign trade
01:28:47	The Jews made the Makó onion world-famous...
01:28:50	...and it became a major source of income for many

01:29:18		Most Jews resided in...
01:29:20		...Little Jewish Street and Big Jewish Street...
01:29:25		...and they had three synagogues
01:29:28		Only a few houses and one synagogue remain
01:29:33	5761/2001	Nothing's been happening for years
01:29:37		The temple turned out beautifully but there are no people
01:29:43		It's so lovely but without people what's the use?
01:29:51		Blessed be the hands that made it
01:29:56		Bless you all
01:30:02		But who is for... who?
01:30:08		Next year in Jerusalem
01:30:15		RENEW OUR DAYS AS IN FORMER TIMES

01:30:35

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Neve CUNNINGHAM
PÉTER Klára
SZENTPÉTERI István
TARI János

Production manager

JUHÁSZ István
RÓMAI Róbert
Marcus BANKS
Nina HIRJI

Director:

TARI János