

FOUR SONS



with
DON AMECHE • EUGENIE LEONTOVICH
MARY BETH HUGHES • ALAN CURTIS

"FOUR SONS," SAGA OF WAR-TORN FAMILY

Don Ameche, Alan Curtis, Robert Lowery, Sons of Eugene Leontovich

Stirring Sequences Show Rift of Family And Nations

Hate born of war turns four closely-knit brothers against each other as a valiant mother strives to preserve her household, in "Four Sons," featuring Don Ameche and Eugenie Leontovich, the Station _____, Channel _____, dramatic feature at _____ day.

Behind the action of this National Telefilm Associates release is an eloquent plea for peace. The drama of the Nazi occupation of Europe is told by 20th Century-Fox in terms of a family, torn within and without, a portrait symbolizing the anguish of motherhood everywhere.

Making her TV-film debut in "Four Sons," celebrated stage star Miss Leontovich plays the role of a mother, widowed in World War I, who raises her sons to become pawns of World War II.

The brothers are Don Ameche, border guardsman and eldest; Alan Curtis, who considers himself a patriot rather than a traitor; George Ernest, the youngest, and Robert Lowery, the dreamer. In the tragic events of a rural family under the invaders' heel and a woman's struggle to retain family unity under wartime conditions, is mirrored the fate of many small nations under Hitler.

Mary Beth Hughes plays a young bride in the family, Sig Rumann and Lionel Royce are prominent in a strong supporting cast.

"Four Sons" was produced by Darryl F. Zanuck and directed by Archie Mayo. Harry Joe Brown was associate producer. The screenplay was suggested by a story written by I. A. R. Wylie.

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★ ★ ★ ★ REVIEWS ★ ★ ★ ★

New York Herald Tribune:

Recent history and its connection with the current devastation of Europe is starkly and powerfully told through the medium of a Czech mother and her four sons in this film . . . "Four Sons" is brilliantly directed by Archie Mayo. Miss Eugenie Leontovich, in her screen debut, is splendid as Frau Bernie, and she is capably supported by Don Ameche, Alan Curtis and Mary Beth Hughes. The progression of the story is always in complete accord with the turning of the wheels of history, and the action and dialogue keep their restless course. Sometimes the film is frightening in its effect, as one looks back and recalls that it must have been so . . . it is an expert piece of film make-believe . . .

Variety:

"Four Sons" movingly portrays the dreams of a mother losing three of her four sons as a result of blitzkrieg. Picture is first of big ones from major studios with current war as motivation and ever-present background. "Four Sons" is excellently made and Archie Mayo carefully directed it for generation of human qualities against war background. Cast is excellently assembled for most realistic portrayals. Eugenie Leontovich stands out prominently as the mother, with sympathetic and warm understanding . . .

New York Daily News:

"Four Sons" is a picture that can't be measured by the usual critical yardstick. This drama of the disintegration of Czechoslovakia . . . is an artistic triumph for producer Darryl Zanuck and Director Archie Mayo . . . Eugenie Leontovich makes a triumphant screen debut as the mother who experiences the death of three sons, one for the homeland, the second for Germany against Czechoslovakia and third for Germany in Poland.

SHORT TAKES

MAYO ON SPOT WHEN NAZIS MARCHED

Finding a director for "Four Sons," the story of a European family under the Nazi boot, was no trouble for 20th Century-Fox. At the helm of this wartime feature on Station _____, Channel _____ at _____ day, the studio put Archie Mayo, who is his own built-in technical advisor. Gag-writer turned director, Mayo was on the scene in Czechoslovakia when the German hordes occupied the country. He was in Munich when the infamous Hitler-Chamberlain pact was made, and in London when Chamberlain returned with his "peace at any cost."

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DEBUT TO REMEMBER

The ski instructor at Sun Valley struck Darryl Zanuck as a highly photogenic subject, so he screen-tested Ragnar Qvale and gave him a part in "Four Sons," the NTA feature on Station _____, Channel _____, at _____, _____ day. The film, depicting the ordeal of a mother and her brood during the German occupation of World War II, shows Qvale in the role of a conspirator.

* * *

SILENT STOCK

Don Ameche was amazed at the live props — hens that wouldn't cackle and cows that wouldn't moo. It was in a dramatic barnyard scene in "Four Sons," the war film on Station _____, Channel _____ at _____ day, and Ameche and other players were required to speak in whispers. The livestock kept quiet too and the scene was filmed in one short hushed take. "How come?" he asked director Archie Mayo, who showed on close inspection, that the stock was wearing tight-fitting muzzles that prevented sounds, didn't show, but permitted cattle and fowl to eat.

★ ★ ★ ★ HIGHLIGHT LISTING ★ ★ ★ ★

★ "Four Sons" depicts the titanic struggle of a family living in a buffer state under Nazi Germany with loyalties divided bitterly among four sons. Tragic in its implications, the ★ film realistically portrays the struggle of a heroic mother to reunite her family. *Don* ★ *Ameche, Eugenie Leontovich, Alan Curtis, Robert Lowery, Mary Beth Hughes.* ★

★ ★

SYNOPSIS



"My sons are all I have! What right has the world to turn them against each other?"

The heart of a mother cries out...as armies march, men hate and fight and die!

FOUR SONS

with

**DON AMECHE • EUGENIE LEONTOVICH
MARY BETH HUGHES • ALAN CURTIS
GEORGE ERNEST • ROBERT LOWERY
LIONEL ROYCE • SIG RUMANN**

Produced by
Darryl F. Zanuck
Associate Producer
Harry Joe Brown
Directed by
Archie Mayo



Running time: 89 minutes

Four Sons

Cast

Chris	Don Ameche
Frau Bernle	Eugenie Leontovich
Anna	Mary Beth Hughes
Karl	Alan Curtis
Fritz	George Ernest
Joseph	Robert Lowery
Max Sturm	Lionel Royce
Newmann	Sig Rumann
Pastor	Ludwig Stossel
Kapek	Christian Rub
Gustav	Torben Meyer
Richter	Egon Brecher
Frau Richter	Eleanor Wesselhoeft
Burgomaster	Michael Visaroff
Frau Sturm	Greta Meyer
Schmitt	Ernst Hausman
Hempel	Robert O. Davis
Muller	Hans Schumm
Hinckerman	Fredrik Vogeding
Gortner	William Von Brincken
Storm Troopers	{ Ragnar Qvale Robert Conway

Credits

Produced by	Darryl F. Zanuck
Associate Producer	Harry Joe Brown
Directed by	Archie Mayo
Original Screen Play by	John Howard Lawson
Suggested by a story by	I. A. R. Wylie
Director of Photography	Leon Shamroy, ASC
Additional Dialogue by	Milton Sperling

Synopsis

"Four Sons" is the story of one family in Nazi-engulfed Czechoslovakia. It is 1936, in Sudetenland where Frau Bernle (Eugenie Leontovich) and her four sons Chris (Don Ameche), Joseph (Robert Lowery), Karl (Alan Curtis) and Fritz (George Ernest), live on a peaceful farm.

Joseph's dream of going to America comes true one night at dinner as the mother gives him her life's savings to finance the trip.

After dinner, Karl tells Chris that he is going to a meeting of a secret Nazi organization. In the conflict over ideologies, Chris remonstrates, maintaining that their first allegiance is to Czechoslovakia. Karl insists that the call of German blood is stronger than country.

Later, they meet in a beer garden where Chris has taken his sweetheart Anna (Mary Beth Hughes). Under one pretext or another, Anna long has continued to put off Chris in his plea that she marry him.

After Joseph leaves for America, Anna visits Karl's radio shop and there reveals why she would not accept Chris. She loves Karl. Torn between his love for Anna and loyalty to his brother, Karl decides to face the situation and explain it to Chris. There is a terrific struggle between the brothers but the mother pacifies them.

Immediately after the wedding of Karl and Anna, Karl is called upon to aid a fellow-Nazi who has been caught by the police. When he returns, he reveals to the whole family that he has joined the underground movement. They are stunned but Anna remains loyal to him.

Political tension increases and the Czechs are called to the colors. Karl, on the pretext of wanting to say goodbye to Anna, remains behind and changes from his Czech uniform to civilian clothes. Chris leaves for the front without him and Karl hurries off to the Nazi storm troopers.

The Czech troops return without having fired a shot. Chris is bitter and tells his mother that the country has been betrayed by men such as Karl.

In Nazi uniform, Karl returns and proudly informs the family that they will not be molested because he is a leader. Lashing out at his brother, Chris calls Karl a traitor and orders him from the house. Anna and the baby leave with him.

Chris then goes to warn his friends who are on the Nazi blacklist. One of these is his old teacher and he finds the teacher has been murdered. As he leaves the house a Nazi squad follows him. Chris is shot in the leg but after fleeing through a swamp he reaches home and hides in the barn.

Later, a detachment of storm troopers brings Karl home. Unwittingly Chris had fatally wounded him during the chase. Anna becomes hysterical and tells the troopers it was Chris who killed her husband. When Chris tries to escape he is shot.

Two of her sons dead, Frau Bernle sees her third son conscripted into the Nazi army. She tries to obtain a passport to America to join Joseph and just as she learns that the village pastor has obtained one for her, she hears of her youngest son's death in Poland. She induces Anna and the baby to accompany her to America.

On-the-air Announcements

10 Seconds

The tramp of invaders boots — and four sons of a wonderful mother rise up . . . against themselves. Don Ameche, Eugene Leontovich, Robert Lowery star in the dramatic war feature, **FOUR SONS**, on this station, _____ day at _____.

10 Seconds

Above the thunder of armies on the march . . . a mother's voice cries out. Her voice is echoed by mothers everywhere who know the terror of war, of impending invasion. The picture is **FOUR SONS**, with Don Ameche. The time is _____, _____ day.

20 Seconds

What right have you to set my sons against each other? It's the question of a mother, the tramp of an invading army at her doorstep, and the fate of her four handsome boys in the balance. The question is not answered — until the threat of war ends and her sons once more are at her table. But do they return? See Eugenie Leontovich, Don Ameche, in the mighty **FOUR SONS**, this station, _____, _____ day.

20 Seconds

Is a mother's heart big enough to keep her sons from hating, fighting, killing — each other? The answer is the most spectacular war drama of them all, a story of a family ripped by dissension with the very boots of Nazi Germany at its doorstep. A thrilling cast, headed by Don Ameche, Alan Curtis, Eugenie Leontovich, shines brilliantly in **FOUR SONS**. _____ day, _____, this station — **FOUR SONS**.



On-the-air promotion is one of the most effective, yet least costly tools available to your station, to help build and hold audiences. Used in conjunction with the announcements above, these compelling slides, especially designed for TV, will be sure attention-getters. Schedule these slides often and with increasing frequency up to telecast time. This slide is part of a strip of unmounted slides available free-of-charge from the NTA Promotion Department in New York. Telops are also available at cost for those stations not having slide facilities.

SLIDE



SHOWMANSHIP

Exploitation Tips For Your Campaign To Attract Widest Audience For "Four Sons"

Promote your NTA features by contacting special interest groups and informing them of your telecasts. You'll find that using showmanship in your tie-ins and stunts will attract viewers and increase your audience, as well as your ratings. Your special promotions should more than pay for themselves in the size of your audience.

For a change induce your editors to assign their foreign writers or ex-war correspondents to a special screening you set up. Their comments on the film, coupled with their personal recollections of the great human drama of war, should be ideal for printable quotes. Perhaps the newspaper would run a cut of the reviewer in his wartime correspondent's uniform. This could be a good opportunity for the paper to present again to its readers reminders of its past glories and great moments. The newsman could recall his own favorite war story.

Organize a movement to recognize those families in your area having four sons. Your newspaper, Chamber of Commerce, or civic groups might cooperate. Invite mothers and friends to nominate their favorite, or famous four sons. A panel of civic leaders, business men, professionals, etc., may be willing to go out on a limb and select the community's outstanding four sons. Might be a tie-in in this respect with a running daytime show. The participating organizations should come up with a special testimonial scroll or donate appropriate prizes. Have a preview screening for the press, mothers with their four sons, oldest mothers, etc.

Mail campaign is an often neglected facet of good promotion. In the case of "Four Sons," strong with mother instincts, prepare a letter for your station manager's signature directing attention to the upcoming telecast. Mail letters to PTA organizations, women's clubs, B'nai B'rith, League of Women Voters, garden clubs, sewing circles, etc. Slant a news release about "Four Sons" for the women's page editors.

For the spiritual aspects of "Four Sons" utilize your clergymen to spread interest in the film feature. Invite them, too, all denominations, to a studio showing, and invite opinions from them for use in news releases and for on-the-air announcement:

"Reverend Blankenship has this to say about 'Four Sons': _____"

An editorial plug is not too easily derived at. However, the subject matter of "Four Sons," even though the war is over, is worth the effort, we feel — so discuss the possibility of an editorial with your local editor. He might like the idea of a private screening for him.

STILLS

A complete set of 86 glossy 8" x 10" stills—one for each of the features in the "Rocket 86" package—will be mailed to each station upon request. In addition, the production photos shown below are available from the NTA Promotion Department in New York. Star portraits and other action stills will also be provided for special promotions.



P1



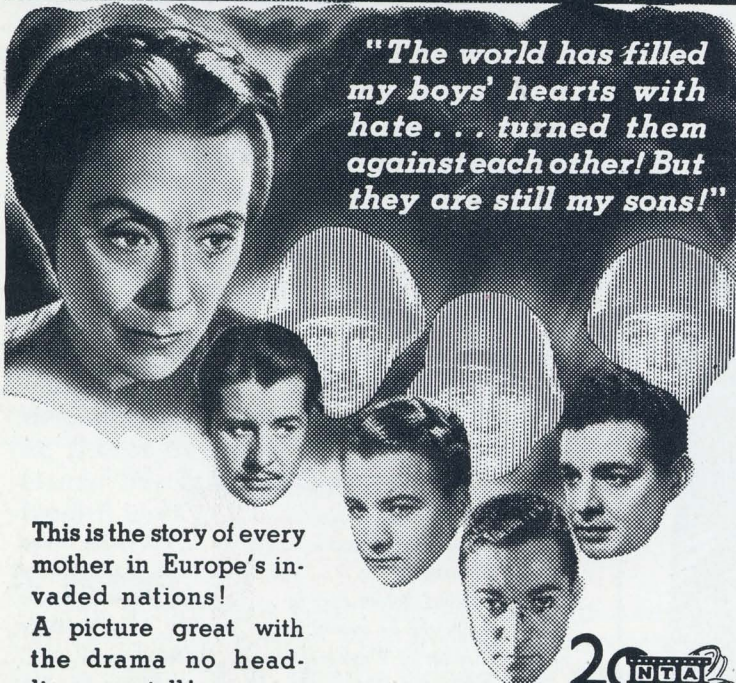
P2



P3

MAT ADS

TV's BEST...TONIGHT



This is the story of every mother in Europe's invaded nations! A picture great with the drama no headlines can tell!



FOUR SONS

with
DON AMECHE • EUGENIE LEONTOVICH
MARY BETH HUGHES • ALAN CURTIS

**WXXX channel 00
TONIGHT at 0:00**

M201

TV's BEST...TONIGHT



A picture great with the heart drama behind Europe's headlines!

FOUR SONS



Don Ameche • Eugenie Leontovich
Mary Beth Hughes • Alan Curtis

**WXXX channel 00
TONIGHT at 0:00**

M102



M101

One column and two-column ad mats are available, free-of-charge to assist your station in advertising and promoting this fine feature. A set of mats for each of the features in the "Rocket 86" package will be sent to each station upon request. Other sizes are available from the NTA Promotion Department in New York



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