

Find Movies, TV shows, Celebrities and more...

All

IMDb Pro | IMDb Apps | Help

Movies, TV & Showtimes

Celebs, Events & Photos

News & Community

Watchlist

Login

Louis De Rochemont Biography

Edit

Showing all 4 items

Jump to: [Overview](#) (2) | [Mini Bio](#) (1) | [Spouse](#) (1)

Overview (2)

Date of Birth	13 January 1899, Boston, Massachusetts, USA
Date of Death	23 December 1978, Newington, New Hampshire, USA

Mini Bio (1)

Louis de Rochemont, the maverick filmmaker and documentarian whose "The Fighting Lady" (1944) won an Oscar, was born in Chelsea, Massachusetts in 1899. He filmed his first newsreel when he was 12 years old and established his reputation making March of Time newsreels in the 1930s. His pre-World War II documentaries elucidating the dangers posed by [Adolf Hitler](#) caused some to label him a red. His documentary productions won two Academy Awards.

The de Rochemont-produced newsreel "Inside Nazi Germany," the January 1938 entry in the March of Time series, was called "the first commercially released anti-Nazi American motion picture." Although the newsreel begins with film actually shot inside Nazi Germany, the footage was bland and disappointing, so de Rochemont had the newsreel spiced up with staged re-enactments using anti-Nazi German-Americans. German-American Bund-leader [Fritz Kuhn](#), he German-born fascist personally detailed by Hitler to lead the American fascist effort, was cajoled into allowing the documentary-makers to stage some scenes at the Bund office. When upon viewing the finished product, Kuhn discovered he had been tricked, [Walter Winchell](#) reported that he was recorded screaming "I will be ruint. Ruint!" at a screening in the March of Time building.

De Rochemont and his wife, screen-writer [Virginia Shaler](#), lived in Newington, New Hampshire on the Piscataqua River at the Seacoast. Though a continent away from Hollywood, De Rochemont produced motion pictures based on true stories in actual locations, often with local people in the cast. Aside from three spy films, his movies films typically dealt with controversial subjects, including labor relations and racism. These pioneering efforts gave him the sobriquet "father of the docu-drama."

De Rochemont was a pioneer in the production of wide-screen films, and he shot films in Cinerama, Todd-AO and other wide-screen processes. He died in New Hampshire in 1978 survived by his wife, a daughter and a son. Virginia Shaler lived in Portsmouth, New Hampshire until her death.

In 1993, his "Inside Nazi Germany," was named to the Library of Congress' National Film Preservation Board's National Film Registry.

- IMDb Mini Biography By: [Jon C. Hopwood](#)

Spouse (1)

Virginia Shaler	(12 September 1929 - ?) (2 children Louis De Rochemont III and Virginia)
---------------------------------	--

See also



ad feedback

Louis De Rochemont

Personal Details

- [Biography](#)
- [Other Works](#)
- [Publicity Listings](#)
- [Official Sites](#)
- [Contact Info \(IMDbPro\)](#)

Explore More

Share this page:

Like Be the first of your friends to like this.

[Other Works](#) | [Publicity Listings](#) | [Official Sites](#) | [Contact Info](#)

Contribute to This Page

[Getting Started](#) | [Contributor Zone](#) »

[Edit page](#)

Recently Viewed

[Manage your history](#)



[Home](#) | [Search](#) | [Site Index](#) | [In Theaters](#) | [Coming Soon](#) | [Top Movies](#) | [Top 250](#) | [TV](#) | [News](#) | [Message Boards](#) | [Press Room](#)
[Register](#) | [Advertising](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Jobs](#) | [IMDbPro](#) | [Box Office Mojo](#) | [Withoutabox](#)

IMDb Mobile: [iPhone/iPad](#) | [Android](#) | [Mobile site](#) | [Windows Phone 7](#) | IMDb Social: [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)

Copyright © 1990-2014 IMDb.com, Inc.
[Conditions of Use](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Interest-Based Ads](#)
An [Amazon](#) company.

Amazon Affiliates

[Amazon Instant Video](#)
Watch Movies &
TV Online

[Prime Instant Video](#)
Unlimited Streaming
of Movies & TV

[Amazon Germany](#)
Buy Movies on
DVD & Blu-ray

[Amazon Italy](#)
Buy Movies on
DVD & Blu-ray

[Amazon France](#)
Buy Movies on
DVD & Blu-ray

[Amazon India](#)
Buy Movie and
TV Show DVDs

[DPRReview](#)
Digital
Photography

[Audible](#)
Download
Audio Books