

PRESS RELEASE 29 February 2008

***THE GUERNICA CHILDREN* DOCUMENTARY SCOOPS PRESTIGIOUS ROYAL TELEVISION SOCIETY AWARD.**

The epic documentary film project *The Guernica Children*, directed and produced by Steve Bowles at Eye Witness Productions, won the award for Best Non-Broadcast Production at last night's Royal Television Society Awards held in Southampton.

The film tells the story of the four thousand Basque refugee children who were evacuated to Britain in 1937 in the wake of the bombing of Guernica during the Spanish Civil War.

At a packed event, Steve said how pleased he was that the film should be recognised in the city where the story had its beginnings just over seventy years ago. He dedicated the award to the memory of the Basque children and the ordinary people of Britain that cared for them.

The original documentary was broadcast by the BBC in 2005. Subsequently, Eye Witness Productions, in collaboration with the Basque Children of '37 Association, received a generous grant from the Spanish Government to re-edit the film in to a feature-length format. The new film was screened for the first time at an emotional 70th anniversary commemoration with the surviving Basque children and their friends and families in Southampton in May 2007.

A public premiere of the film at a packed Harbour Lights cinema in Southampton in June, supported by *Screen South* and *Southampton City Council* was hosted by *Screen South's* regional partner *City Eye*. The film impressed representatives of the British Federation of Film Societies (BFFS) who were in the audience and the film is now being distributed by the BFFS to film society and community cinemas across the country.

More information on *The Guernica Children* from Eye Witness Productions Ltd. 23 Lordswood Gardens. Southampton SO16 6RY. Tel: 023 8039 1199. Mob: 078087 25022. E: stevebowles@btopenworld.com

More information on the Basque children in the UK at www.basquechildren.org

More information on the Royal Television Society at www.rts.org.uk - Julia Bradshaw, RTS Southern Centre Awards Co-ordinator: jabradshaw@hotmail.co.uk

More information on screenings of *The Guernica Children* at www.bffs.org.uk

The Guernica Children will next be screened at the Imperial War Museum in London on Saturday 8 March at 11am.

ENDS.