

## PORAJMOS: THE GYPSY HOLOCAUST

'Porajmos' is the term the Roma (Gypsy) people use to describe the Nazi effort to exterminate them. The term literally means the 'Devouring'. The unreliability of pre-Porajmos population figures makes it difficult to calculate how many Roma were actually killed during the war years. In 1997, the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Research Institute put the number of Roma killed by the Nazi regime between 500,000 and 1,500,000. An estimated 50-80% of the Roma population in Nazi-occupied territories are believed to have been annihilated at this time. In the concentration/extermination camps, the Roma (like other racial/social groups) were required to wear insignia. They wore either a black triangle (symbol for "asocials") or a green triangle (symbol for "professional criminals"). Sometimes they were not brought to camps; they were tracked down by Nazi 'Einsatzgruppen' in their encampments and murdered on the spot. Of note: no Roma were called to testify at the Nuremberg Trials and no one came forth on their behalf.

### ROMA/GYPSY TERMS USED IN STORY

Beng: name of 'The Evil One'  
gaje: non-Gypsy persons  
kumpania: group of traveling wagons  
patshiva: celebration with lavish food and drink, song and dance  
raklo: non-Gypsy boy  
rom(a): Gypsy persons  
vurdon: wagon-home

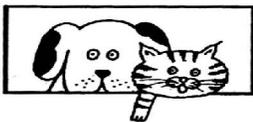
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## MUSICKER'S RESEARCH

The following books were used to research the cultural and historical background for the show: Leningrad Diary by Vera Inber; A History of the Gypsies of Eastern Europe and Russia by David Crowe; The Gypsies by Jan Yoors; Crossings by Jan Yoors; The 900 Days (The Siege of Leningrad) by Harrison Salisbury; 199 Days (The Battle for Stalingrad) by Edwin P. Hoyt; Bury Me Standing (The Gypsies and their Journey) by Isabel Fonseca; Enemy at the Gates by William Craig.

The following documentaries were consulted: History's Turning Points II – The Plot to Kill Hitler; Battlefield – Battle of Stalingrad

Wikipedia was also consulted. It should be noted that the show's creator, J Roth, spent over two years living and traveling through the former Soviet Union.

### ABOUT THE RUSSIAN INSTRUMENTS

The triangular-shaped instrument is called a balalaika. The round-shaped instrument is called a domra. The predecessors to both of these instruments are believed to have been brought to Russia by the Mongols in the 12<sup>th</sup> or 13<sup>th</sup> Century.

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