



## 6.7 Part 1

**Interviewer:** So, tell me, **how did you get involved** in the film, Dagmara?

**Dagmara:** Well, as you probably know, Schindler's List was shot in Krakow, in Poland, which is where I live. I was a university student at the time, studying English. And the film company **set up** their production office here three months before they started shooting the film and I got a job there as a production assistant, preparing and translating documents and the script.

**Interviewer:** But how did you get the job as Steven Spielberg's interpreter?

**Dagmara:** Well, it was a complete coincidence. Just before the shooting started, there was a big party in one of the hotels in Krakow for all the actors and the **film crew**, and I was invited too. When I arrived at the party the Polish producer of the film came up to me and said, 'The woman who was going to interpret for Steven Spielberg can't come, so we need you to interpret his opening speech.'



**Interviewer:** How did you feel about that?

**Dagmara:** I couldn't believe it! I was just a student – I had no experience of interpreting – and now I was going to speak in front of hundreds of people. I was so nervous that I drank a couple of glasses of champagne to give

myself **courage**. I must have done a pretty good job **though**, because soon afterwards Spielberg came up to me to say thank you and then he said, 'I'd like you to be my interpreter for the **whole** film.' I was so **stunned** I had to pinch myself to believe that this was happening to me.

## 6.9 Part 2

**Interviewer:** So, what exactly did you have to do?

**Dagmara:** I had to go to the film set every day and translate Spielberg's instructions to the Polish actors, and also to the extras. I had to make them understand what he wanted them to do. It was really exciting, and I often felt as if I was a director myself.

**Interviewer:** So, was it a difficult job?

**Dagmara:** Sometimes it was really hard. The worst thing was when we had to shoot a **scene** again and again because Spielberg thought it wasn't exactly right. Some scenes were repeated as many as 16 times – and then sometimes I would think that maybe it was my fault – that I hadn't translated properly what he wanted, so I'd get really nervous. I remember one scene with lots of actors in it which we just couldn't get right and Spielberg started shouting at me because he was stressed. **Eventually** we got it right and then he apologized, and I cried a little, because I was also very stressed – and after that it was all right again.

**Interviewer:** So, was Spielberg difficult to work with?



**Dagmara:** Not at all. I mean he was very **demanding**, I had to do my best every day, but he was really nice to me. I felt he treated

me like a daughter. **For instance**, he was always making sure that I wasn't cold – it was freezing on the set most of the time – and he would make sure that I had a warm coat and gloves and things.

**Interviewer:** Did you ever get to be an extra?

**Dagmara:** Yes, twice! I was going to be in two party scenes, and I got to wear beautiful long dresses and **high heels**. Unfortunately, one scene didn't make it to the final cut of the film, and before we started shooting the other one, I **tripped** walking down some stairs and **twisted my ankle** really badly. I was in so much pain that I couldn't **take part in** the filming. And that was the end of my 'acting career'. I still have the photos of me looking like a girl from the 40s, though!

**Interviewer:** Have you ever worked with Spielberg again?

**Dagmara:** Yes. A year later he invited me to interpret for him again, this time during the premiere of *Schindler's List* in Poland, which was **broadcast** live on national television! Before that, he had also asked me to come to work as a production assistant on his next movie in Hollywood. I was very **tempted** and thought really hard about it, but I hadn't finished my studies yet and all my family and friends were in Poland so in the end I decided not to go.

**Interviewer:** oh, **do you regret it?**

**Dagmara:** Not at all. I had my moment, and it was **unforgettable** but that was it.

## **GLOSSARY**

1. **How did you get involved...?** : Como terminaste involucrado/a?
2. **Film crew:** equipo de rodaje, equipo técnico de la película
3. **Courage:** valor, coraje
4. **Whole:** todo, entero, completo
5. **Stunned:** sorprendido, atónito
6. **Scene:** escena
7. **Eventually:** eventualmente, a la larga
8. **For instance:** por ejemplo
9. **High heels:** tacones
10. **Tripped over:** tropezar con
11. **Twisted my ankle:** torcí el tobillo
12. **Take part in:** participar
13. **Broadcast:** transmitir, transmisión
14. **Tempted:** tentado
15. **Regret:** arrepentirse