

Box 609, Lakefield, Ont., K0L 2H0.


4 Nov 85

The Editor,
The Globe & Mail,
444 Front St.W.,
Toronto, Ontario.

Dear Sir:

I have just seen Irene Lilienheim Angelico's film, DARK LULLABIES, made in co-operation with the National Film Board. This film was reviewed by Jay Scott in the Globe some time ago. I recall thinking then that his description of Lilienheim "weeping prettily on screen" and of the film as "yet another NFB learn-a-long" seemed gratuitously insulting, but now I realize just how unfair his remarks were. Lilienheim, the daughter of survivors of the Holocaust, took a geographical and spiritual journey, from Canada to Israel and to Germany. We see the children of survivors and witness their bewildered pain on behalf of their parents, many of whom could not bring themselves to speak of that unspeakable experience nor to express their tragic guilt at having survived when so many did not. We see some of the young Germans, who did not know, as children, that their own parents and grandparents, affectionate towards their own families, were actually capable of slaughtering other - Jewish - families. We see one young German neo-Nazi, and the sick racism and hatred in his face and words are a warning to those who like to believe "it could never happen again". The film is admirably restrained and yet one of the most moving and powerful documentaries I have ever seen. As for its being a "learn-a-long", I hope that a lot of people will indeed learn from it, learn that nowhere can people take freedom or human rights for granted. And yes, Lilienheim does several times have to struggle to contain her grieving tears. If we are not supposed to feel and indeed show strong emotion over the atrocities of the Holocaust and the terrifying de-humanization of Hitler's followers that led to ~~it~~, ^{then} in the name of humankind what is worth our rage and grief and tears? I hope this fine film will find a very wide and perceptive audience

Yours truly,


Margaret Laurence

(Karen - no errors
on the original)
M.