

In my previous assignments for this course I have tried to explore the technical, filmmaking side of documentary films. I would focus on the techniques of filming and the uses of music and how they are both related to each other. As well, I would try to show how those two aspects of the film - sound and vision - contributed to the overall theme and tone of the film. I could have done the same sort of ^{study} ~~thing~~ for this film as well, however, I felt this film deserved something more - something better.

I have always found that analyzing the various techniques of filming and audio to be a bit superficial and bogus. As far as I am concerned one needs only to be able to "shovel it" in order to say something that appears insightful. One has only to pay minor attention to the various techniques used for a couple of minutes - ... to have plenty of "quality" material for a mere four page paper.

I have spoken to ^{previously} many students who have ^{previously} or who are now taking some sort of film course and most of them agree that they ^{received} ~~got~~ very good marks for minimal thought and effort by means of, if you'll pardon the expression, "bullshiting their way through". Now, you are probably asking yourself why I am saying all this. Well, I will tell you. When I went to class last Tuesday I anticipated writing another such report. However, after having watched the film and listened to Irene speak, I realized this was a special film and, being so, worthy of a special effort.

Before the film started I expected another dreaded film about the Holocaust. At the beginning I got what I expected too.

You see, and I'm sure you'll admit, Dark Lullabies is a very personal film meant primarily, I think, for people who can relate to the Holocaust. I am not or was not, however, one of those people. Initially, when I was old enough to actually understand what had happened, I was appalled and full of astonishment and disbelief that such a horrible thing could go on unchecked for so long in a so-called "civilized society". However, I kept hearing more and more ~~and~~ about this subject, and eventually I began to get fed up ^{with} ~~about~~ it. After all, it had happened so long ago. ^{in what terms?} I couldn't understand why everybody didn't just let sleeping dogs lie.

I was getting so fed up with hearing about the Holocaust that instead of being sickened by the thought as I once was, I was now nearly apathetic (now that is a scary notion, for it is that attitude that allowed the Holocaust to take place in the first place. / good

I'm convinced that I felt this way about the Holocaust simply because I couldn't relate to it at all. I knew of no one who had actually gone through that nightmare, and none of my friends whose parents or relatives may have gone through it ever spoke of it to me. The whole thing happened more than twenty years before I was even born and seemed as distant as the sinking of the Titanic.

It wasn't until I saw the scene of the old man crying at the gathering about his lost kin that it really hit

home - normal, everyday people like me and my parents and my family had lived through this incredible horror. The tears made everything so real and so personal.

It was at this point that I really ^{vocabulary} got interested in this film and experienced a rainbow of emotions with everyone else - rage and disbelief at the Neo-Nazis ; sadness, repulsion, disgust and sorrow at the sight of all the corpses (mere skin and bones) being systematically and orderly thrown into their huge burial pits ; as well as an incredibly uplifting feeling of hope from some of the survivors (the man who collected pigeons) and from the statistic that said the concentration camp survivors had, by far, the highest birthrate in the world for years after the tragic event. It astonished me that these people were still capable of love after all the bitterness and sorrow and cruelties they had suffered.

Everything seemed so personal now ^{that} I ~~now~~ felt ~~that~~ I could somehow relate to it all - particularly after hearing Irene and the girl in our class who spoke of her aunt and uncle. explain / be more specific

This film brought something entirely new to me regarding the Holocaust - something that had never occurred to me before. It brought to light and explored the impact that the Holocaust had on post-war generations of Jews and Germans. ^(sp.) / good

The whole idea seemed new to me but particularly the German point of view. I had never even considered how difficult it would be for the German descendants. Hopefully

everyone realizes how tough it would be for the descendants of the captives, but very few realize how the captors descendants would feel.

/ good

The line that struck me the most in this film went something like this : The Jews could look back and say they were wronged but came through it, whereas the Germans look back and cannot take pride in their tarnished, disgraceful past that haunts them to this day. People often relate modern Germany to that of the Nazi regime - the Third Reich which is a heavy burden for the innocent descendants of that country to bear. I can't help but feel sorry for the German children because I can imagine how I would feel if my apparently gentle and beloved grandfather ^{were} ~~was~~ guilty of the deaths of millions of innocent people.

Good

/ good

/ good

It seems to me that the Jews have (gotten) rotten deals throughout history - from Biblical times to modern day. It also seems the problems the second and third generation survivors must face are just one more great injustice that those innocents have been dealt and must endure. This leads me to another part that further illustrates the effect of the Holocaust on its survivors. ^{In one} ~~The scene where~~ ^a ~~the~~ lady (who as a twelve-year-old child painted the walls of her house with scenes of what she understood her parents to have lived through) tells how her father died an extremely happy man simply because he died in dignity surrounded by those who loved him, those who would cry and mourn for him.

vocabulary

/ good

PARAGRAPH

develop

} not a sentence

I can only hope that some good will have come out of all this and that humankind will have learnt some valuable lessons from it. On a more personal note I think Dark Lullabies was a super film that helped reawaken my failing sense

of what is right and wrong. *By making the film so personal, The director thus, made ~~it~~ the subject matter and thusly, easier to relate to.* I must add, in closing, that

I really admire and respect people like Irene Angelico for doing what she did despite the torrent of emotions that the whole experience must surely have opened for her.