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Those Shocking Shaking Days

Experimental filmmaker Selma Doborac presents a radical and uncompromising essay on the impossibility of depicting the atrocities of war through insightful subtitles and meditative footage of abandoned structures that belong to the present as well as to the past.

This thought-provoking, radically unconventional documentary looks back at the Bosnian war of the 1990s, one of the most heavily televised in Europe, and uses it as the jumping-off point for bigger philosophical questions. Through onscreen text and calming images of abandoned houses, *Those Shocking Shaking Days* skips past the typical use of emotionally manipulative footage of war atrocities and strives for a sort of intellectual comprehension. For example, there is no narrator or music to tell you how to feel—not initially. Instead, the movie asks you to consider things such as how overuse of the typical images in war documentaries may deaden their impact. Writer/director Selma Doborac asks a lot of questions, and certainly makes you think. Then, just as you may reach the point of growing tired of her cinematic strategy, she changes it up. Throughout the film, her self-aware and self-questioning text adds a certain lightness to such a dark subject matter. Watching the movie is like being part of a deconstructed TED Talk. *Those Shocking Shaking Days* is much about war documentaries as it is about war. Be prepared to engage with this film, because it's not one where

you can just sit back and passively take it all in.

Director Biography

Selma Doborac was born in 1982 in Bosnia and Herzegovina, she lives in Vienna and works in the fields of essay, documentary and experimental film, photography, and conceptual art. From 2002 to 2007 study and graduation at the University of Applied Arts, Vienna, Department for Mixed Media Strategies (Bernhard Leitner). From 2008 to 2012 study and graduation at the Academy of Fine Arts, Vienna, Department for Art and Film (Harun Farocki). Festival participations and exhibitions, awards and grants nationally and internationally.

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