

VIRGINRED

Short Film - Switzerland
35mm - 9 min.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

There are many good war films, and most of them communicate strong political sentiments, generally denouncing the orientation of governments on the world arena. I wanted to make a film *about* the war – neither for, nor against – seen through the eyes of a twenty-year old soldier. A film about the essence of modern war, without analysis or judgment of its causes and motivations, an idea made possible by the short film format.

Having read the UK bestseller *Week-end Warrior* (the diary of a British soldier during Gulf War II), I consulted extensively with its author, Kevin Mervin. We discussed some fundamental choices in the plot and the protagonists' psychology, as well as basic military technique and other details of the daily reality of war. I have chosen to portray a simple situation, which degenerates rapidly and ends tragically, and where misunderstanding and fear end up dictating behavior, a frequent occurrence in the war routine.

Although the story takes place in a fictional country, occupied by a fictional army, the images of war seem absolutely real. Similar to the media's use of documentary images to create a quasi-fictional feeling, I wanted fiction and reality to converge during the film. While working on cinematography, editing and sound, we were constantly aware of the thin line separating the narrative from the documentary.

The actors, through their sincere and passionate performances, also helped raise some fundamental issues: How do we judge the innocence of those who take part in a war? What price are we ready to pay in terms of human consequences?

Edouard Getaz

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