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Our Road To Kosovo



Directed by James Saldana
Written by

Documentary
27 minutes, Color, USA

The Road to Kosovo was traveled by six young American college students in a documentary that chronicles the struggle of an ethnic Albanian family during the 1999/2000 Kosovar conflict. Documented on a very personal level, this crisis hits home with its viewers as these students follow the Kelmendi family from the refugee camps to their home in Mitrovica, in northern Kosovo. From an ethnic Albanian point of view, we learn of their harrowing exodus from Kosovo and the process of reclamation that these refugees must go through when they return home to find that their once familiar society has become livable only under constant military occupation. Throughout the film, these young American students discover how the Kosovar Albanians have become foreigners in their own land, despite the withdrawal of Serbian troops, who prompted their exodus. Filmed on the Albania/Kosovo boarder during the war and a year later in the divided city of Mitrovica, Our Road to Kosovo is personal story of tragedy and hope for the Kelmendi family, as ethnic violence continues to plaque the entire province to this day. Even today Mitrovica is still a divided city, much like cold-war Berlin. Serbs are restricted to the northern half of the city, while the Albanians live in the Southern half, and NATO forces occupy the bridges in the center of the city to keep them apart. But despite the presence of French troops, wide scale violence broke out again in 2004, which left 20 people dead and 900 injured. The United Nations has yet to determine the final status of Kosovo and peacekeeping efforts are expected to continue well into the next decade.

Produced By: James Saldana
Jeff Norman
Rick Carsely

Film Website: <http://www.idcfilms.com/>

Screening History: DOCNZ, New Zealand, 2005
Sacramento Film & Music Festival, 2005
BestFest America, 2005
Bronx International Film Festival, TBA 2005
Planet Ant Film & Video Festival, 2005
Artsfest Film Festival, 2005
Fest-EYE-Ful, 2005

"work-in-progress" screenings:

Amnesty International "Human Rights Film Festival",
2004

Detroit Docs Film Festival, 2003

WSIU PBS - (university station), 2003

Angelus Awards, 2002

Awards & Recognition: Bronx International Film Festival - "Honorable Mention"
Award
Planet Ant Film & Video Festival - "Best Documentary"
Award
Angelus Awards, "Documentary Finalist" Award



Program 6 - Two Roads to Peace
Two Short Films

Friday, September 23, 2005

12:30 PM - 2:00 PM

Southern Illinois University students
and a Vietnamese Zen master travel to
different areas of conflict attempting to
find common ground between opposing
forces in these two powerful
documentaries.

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General Admission

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Student/Sr./Child

\$6

1

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