

Summary

The Way I See It

The way I see it...I have been shooting films for 26 years. During this time not only the emerging film itself has taken shape through the lenses of my camera, but thoughts on film making have also formed. In my DLA thesis I have attempted to order and think through my two and half decades of film making and creating experience.

First I attempt to answer the basic question. What is a documentary film? How do we define it? Where does it belong to within film genres? I have searched for the relation between reality and truth, and inadvertently questions of aesthetic nature has had to be answered.

Then I continue with the technological process of film making. Relying on my knowledge acquired while working as a director, cinematographer, and film editor I look at the technological sequence beginning with the incipient idea all the way through the selling of the film. I dwell on the Hungarian film subsidy system, the application method, the various phases of the manufacturing and creating processes, the cooperation among film crew members, the soundtrack, and the title.

Finally, I write about the creating method, more precisely about my personal creed regarding documentary film making. Ethical questions are of special importance.

I have relied on five Hungarian directors with different mindset in the construction of my argument, on several Hungarian and foreign authors writing on film theory.

Seven different documentary films of mine, shot at different times and places with various methods form the basis of this work, help me pose theoretical questions and present film making and production methods.

The way I see it... This DLA thesis is not more than the director's insight, yet it is not less either.