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Spanish 325-1

May 18, 2022

The movie City of God takes place in the favelas outside of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The events shown in the film took place between the 60s and 70s. This film is based on a true story, released in 2002, and also won the BAFTA award for best editing. In this movie, there is nothing but violence, drugs, and poverty. The main focus of this movie is survival regarding poverty, police corruption, and lack of justice. To interpret this film, "The movie also talks about the poor living standards that the people endured and the abject poverty that surrounded them. It also presents to the world a society that was collapsing due to the countless acts of corruption by the rich and police. This was coupled with the high levels of insecurity in the city caused by the rising cases of criminality". In this case, the City of God, more specifically the favelas was built and was also being run by the government, the purpose of building this city was to give it to the same people that lived in it, so they'll keep the same social class and same economic statutes, for me this represents "segregation" because they are not being allowed to have new opportunities in society. This movie really caught my attention because the characters that played in this film are very young and anybody who may have seen this film, would think that the kids who act in this film are good kids. Even though they could be good kids, in the favelas world, this isn't the case. Since they have easy access to a gun. First, These Children's goals were to become gang members and

get involved in armed robbery and drug trafficking instead of focusing on their education. This is due to the fact that they are born in an environment of poverty and crime and as they become older, it becomes part of their everyday styles, due to the limited access to an education they choose the easy path of crime. Most of these minors become drug addicts and in order to feel some power, they also involve themselves in gangs where they have to kill people in order to prove they would be strong enough to fully support their gang. Organized crime is a huge thing in this film because people in Las favelas don't have many sources to escape from them, and the law as well was not followed or enforced because the government, in general, was not doing anything to change these communities for the better. The government would go into their homes and arrest gang members, but that was about it. After paying some cash, they would be released immediately without any problems.

On the other hand, the favelas citizens do not have many opportunities to change their lives, such as programs to train people to join the workforce or access to libraries or educational programs for the youth, which would make a positive impact on their lives and give them the opportunity to succeed. A scene that was very shocking to me was when "at the motel, Lil Ze shot all the people that the previous robbers had left alive, there was evil in his eyes and he got so much pleasure out of his actions. He was just a little boy, but because of everything he experienced growing up, this was the only way he felt like he had power". I think this film did a great job of showing the problems that occur in the favelas and the poverty in communities that push people to do anything even if it is something illegal just to make a living. An important aspect of the film is how it was able to capture the cycle of violence throughout the whole film. I think the

violence in the film was difficult to watch at times, especially the scenes with violence by minors. We normally think that children represent the hope and future of a nation. However, when that is not the case, you are left with a sense of impotence. This shows the horrible reality in the Latin American countries, where kids grow up around so much crime, violence, drug trafficking, and gangs, but also how gangs work and what they do to convince kids and youth to join criminal groups. Mexico is a great example where the new generations are not able to see more than crime around them. Mark Stevenson “While kids almost always engage in drug use and leaving — or being expelled from — school prior to joining a cartel, membership in local street gangs no longer appears to play much of a role. Cartels in Mexico are directly recruiting kids as soon as they leave school”. This is a vicious circle of crime from which they cannot get out, but instead they have to become part, so they can "survive". Also, I believe that discipline from parents has a lot to do with what kind of person we become. Many countries in Latin America aren't very helpful and just as the favelas don't have great opportunities to offer. Despite not having many options, Rocket was doing everything he could to not become a gang member, instead, he pursued photography, he knew this was the only way out of the favelas.

The main idea of the film *Even the Rain*, is to really show and leave no doubts about the issues around the world that we don't really value here in the U.S. the documentary is specifically pointing out the privatization of water and how they were not even allowed to collect water from the rain without being charged at this point it was a matter of time to even get charged for the air they were breathing. Water is a vital thing to humanity, this is why the people from this town were mad because some of them

could not afford water to give to their families. This is when it turns into another interesting point because the other short clip that was being shown in the film is about the colonization of the indigenous world and the exploitation indigenous were put through by Spaniards and how these indigenous people were forced to collect gold. In a sense, I think this same message shows the issues that are taking place in real life where the government is exploiting and taking advantage of natural resources such as water to make a profit out of it and become richer. It is upsetting that these were actual events and that such a fight did take place where everyone had to stand up and speak up for what was right. Many Bolivians joined the protest, and all that was being done was for the best of their families to not be denied an essential thing that is provided by nature. The scene I found most heartbreaking was the one where the: "indigenous were escaping with their children and the elder and one elder lady fell and couldn't walk anymore, so her daughter had to leave without her". This scene caught my attention because of how people can be so corrupted that they are willing to hurt innocent individuals.

This film was directed by a woman named Icier Bollaín, the reason why I found it really impressive is the way she was the first Spanish filmmaker to make the Oscars shortlist. The setup of this movie was to show the history of the Spanish conquest. The film took place in Bolivia, as they were recording the film in Bolivia the water fight was going on. The message in *También La Lluvia* is very clear. There is a huge focus on the cycle of colonization and the way the film industry exploits and takes advantage of poor countries like Bolivia for cheap labor and low production costs. Icier Bollaín does a

magnificent job at showing these issues throughout every scene in the documentary. It is more than clear that the producer of this film chose cheap labor costs over historical accuracy when filming the events of the Spanish conquest. Extras characters were being taken advantage of because they were getting paid \$2 a day. While filming the documentary, they were focusing more on the documentary than worrying about the lives of the cast members. For example, at some point, they are furious at Daniel for risking his safety by advocating for his community's access to water, not because they care about his life, but because they know that without Daniel they won't be able to finish the film.

Work cited

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