Documentarian Michael Moore takes on gun-control

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On the morning of April 20, 1999, the United States government executed its most devastating attack to date on Kosovo. But television cameras had a more frightening story to capture. A story that hit closer to home. A story that instilled fear in people across America; a story of two outcasts taking vengeance against a school in Littleton, Colorado.

Forever resolving to supply what sells, news channels showed surveillance camera footage taken from inside the high school, interviews with students who survived the ordeal, and aired testimony from students witnessing the carnage live. Experts were quick to point the finger at possible influences causing the violence, and stations were even quicker to air these opinions, but who could answer why this (a story with a fraction of the bloodshed occurring in Kosovo) story was thrown at us?

Enter filmmaker Michael Moore (Roger & Me) who, in his latest documentary called Bowling for Columbine, scour our nation and our neighbor to the north for answers concerning our nation’s fear, love for firearms and lust for violence. Searching for these answers, Moore finds himself in contact with commoners and celebrities alike who have contributed to or have been with the NRA. Who could answer why this (a story with a fraction of the bloodshed occurring in Kosovo) story was thrown at us?

Moore has an uncanny sense of juxtaposing scenes to grasp the viewer’s attention and invoke high degrees of emotion. For example, after almost a minute of watching surveillance videos of the Columbine shootings Moore immediately cuts to Heston proudly declaring “From my cold dead hands!” as he raises a rifle in the Colorado Convention Center.

Such scenes may lead viewers to believe the obvious: that Moore is a typical Hollywood Democrat bent on destroying the Second Amendment and disarming the American people to a discussion of gun control. However, there is no one-sided at times because of its stand on gun control. There is no discounting the facts that reveal them—self to themselves throughout the film: homicide deaths in the U.S. total to over 11 times more than that of Germany, the United Kingdom, Australia, Japan, France, and Canada combined. Excluding Japan, our one year military budget increase of $48 billion is larger than any one country’s entire military budget. Canada, a country with a similar gun to person ratio found in the U.S., has experienced less than one and a half percent of the homicide deaths America has.

Starling statistics such as these are the backbone of Bowling for Columbine as the film, in its purest form, is not a piece of anti-gun propaganda but an effort to find out why, as a citizen of Canada put it: Americans’ “first reaction is [to] pull the gun out.”

From the first scene where he visits a bank that distributes free guns to specified account holders, to his interview with Heston, who hints at America’s diversity being the cause of violence and soon walks away as Moore shows him the picture of the six-year-old girl killed mere days before his pro-gun rally, Moore delivers both humor and sorrow only found in the context of real life. Bowling for Columbine is a journey through the heartland and down those dark alleys of American pride designed by a constitutional right.

Crossword

ACROSS
1. Narrow opening
5. Doc’s mate
9. Military muddle
11. Vector of Hollywood
15. Follow secretly
16. Sugar ponders
17. Tall hurt
18. “Paper Lion” star
20. Wearland
25. Pathfinders
25. “I’ll write the story”
24. Cast a spell
26. River of Pakistan
32. Playground ride
33. Mt. Jagged
36. Blood passage
38. Cash in Com, formerly
39. Stop a trip
40. Spoken
44. Blower
45. Stick one’s heel
46. Go over again
49. Picky courage
53. Extreme
55. Make merry
57. Devices for tallars
61. Mary’s Rock
64. Small arrow
66. Dang
69. Wisdom unit?
67. Moreover
68. Comfort
69. Cheer up
70. McNally stay
with The
71. Wood and art

DOWN
1. Artistic mammal
2. Philadelphia firm
3. Old survivors
4. Great location
5. Wild fry
6. Starve, starve
7. Open set in Egypt
8. Thin, shiny coating
9. Rare
10. Almond housing
11. Tummy muscles
12. Service charge
13. Dos Pueblos
work
21. Hawaiian verdal
22. UTRNA grade
25. Man from
27. Tell a speech
28. Ameche or Johnson
30. Exhitr
31. Violent outburst
33. Norwegian intel
34. Dacot
35. WWII beach
36. Frizzy do.
40. Deficits decreasing
41. 4th network
42. Uses as crooner
47. Major commodity
48. Cool of goofy

Solutions

10. Dodged
22. Fragrantconda
35. Deck of fury
37. Toy with
50. Photographer
54. Playwright

1. Dingum
15. 39. 53.

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