

For the purpose of life, the tree bonsai in hand

The documentary Greg Reitman directed the film-journey "of the search for truth in our crazy world"

Greg Reitman (Greg Reitman) took seriously the words of an Indian guru, Maharishi Mahesh Yogi that should be all green trees, and only if the forest is truly green. And if we want to establish true peace on earth, peace should be present in every heart.

In search of humanity in a world full of violence and evil, Reitman went on a long journey, which also sealed in his new documentary "Rooted in the world» (Rooted in Peace). The picture shows a circle done in several film festivals in the US, Canada, France, Brazil and other countries. These days beginning in New York.

Greg Reitman - director, playwright, producer, active member of the Directors Guild of America (DGA). He received a bachelor's degree in the University of Massachusetts at Amherst and a master's certificate degree - in the Film School of the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA). He founded the independent film production company Blue Water Entertainment. Produced documentaries "Hollywood Magic Island: Catalina," "Fields of Fuel" formerly "Fuel." Movie Maker Magazine called him "one of the ten filmmakers making films that affect the world."

With Greg Reitman talked correspondent of Russian service "Voice of America".

Oleg Sulkin: Greg, what prompted you to go to such an unusual journey?

Greg Reitman: Several reasons. I remember how in the Kennedy airport I was nearly arrested for carrying a bottle of water that I put in my hand luggage. Tension and suspicion had become the hallmark of the new atmosphere of our lives after the attacks of September 11, 2001. Before that, I lived in Israel during the first Gulf War, and I remember everything. Fear, missiles. I wanted to understand how one person who lives in our changed world, whether it is possible to overcome the fears and pain to achieve spiritual harmony?

O.S: What you read, what movies watched, ready to shoot?

GR: I read a variety of books - on philosophy, history, psychology, and medicine. Revised set of documentary material, especially news chronicles of the nuclear arms race, Recordings of all US Presidents who have made statements about the nuclear threat and nuclear weapons. This baton of opinions we have included in the film.

73/5000

O.S: But it is obvious that you avoid direct conversation about politics.

GR: Yes, it does, and it's a conscious decision. I did not want to indulge in polemics and thereby alienate the movie who would disagree with me. It seemed productive to rise to a higher level - to talk about the meaning of life, of nature, of the human mystery. And I'm glad - because people respond very vividly.

O.S: Amusing to see you in the frame of the same with the dwarf bonsai tree in hand. It seems that you have been with him in one place. How are people with whom you communicate, perceive the "green" message?

GR: Very engaged. I selected the audience with the enthusiastic cultivation of Japanese bonsai. At the end of the film I leave the bonsai tree at the Imagine sign (the sign of a mosaic in Central Park in memory of John Lennon - OS). And you know what the question most often asked the audience after watching? What is the fate of this tree? What happened to him?

O.S: And what is the fate?

GR: Not to say. There some questions people need to answer for themselves. There must be in the movie is a mystery.

O.S: You interviewed for the film such famous people like director David Lynch, media mogul Ted Turner, the spiritual teacher Deepak Chopra, musicians Donovan and Pete Seeger, doctor and writer Marc Hyman, Archbishop Desmond Tutu. Who has made the greatest impression on you?

GR: I did stop in Hiroshima and the 9/11 memorial in New York. We need to think about how and why did these tragedies took root. I have a very strong recollection visiting Maharishi University in Fairfield, Iowa. I remember my conversation with expert, Ph.D. Fred Travis. Here people from all over the world are taught transcendental meditation (TM). On the meaning of meditation, on the influence of Eastern philosophy they were told by both David Lynch, Donovan and Michael Love (former member of The Beach Boys - OS), and other wonderful people. Therefore, it was important to me to show the historical footage of the "Beatles" in India & the affect that Maharishi and his teachings had on thier lives. Mike Love and Donovan were also close to John, Paul, and George who were on that trip, and we see them, in the film. I am very interested in holistic, alternative medicine. Therefore, I talk in detail with various experts in this exciting and mysterious area of expertise. I was fascinated by the idea of Paul Hawken & the idea of human extraction & people just taking from nature.



O.S: You do not make any conclusions, do leave to the viewer. Why?

GR: You know, I do not pretend to be omniscient but allow the guides & luminaries to lead us. I'm a regular guy, a man from the crowd, and talking with the luminaries of science, philosophy, religion and music, they ask the most basic questions. And I try to restrain emotions. Deepak Chopra is well said that one should not become "angry fighter for peace."

O.S: As a result of a long journey, you also met a person close to you.

GR: Yes, I have, been together with Britta 7 and a-half years; four and a half married.



O.S: Does she share your views?

GR: You would need to aks her.

O.S: We can assume your odyssey complete?

GR: For the film - yes. But, of course, self-knowledge has no end, one way or another, I'll continue this topic. Further details will be in my book.

Oleg Sulkin

Journalist, film critic, correspondent of Russian service of "Voice of America" in New York.