

In No One's Honor: A Movie Review of *In Whose Honor?*

In his film *In Whose Honor?*, Jay Rosenstein takes a disbelieving American audience behind the lines to showcase the first-hand accounts of the disrespect and suffering inflicted upon the Native American through the use of Indian chiefs as mascots. Throughout the duration of the film, Rosenstein follows the timeline of Charlene Teters' attempts at making her voice heard by not only the community of the University of Illinois, but the entire nation.

In order to convey his ideas to the audience, Rosenstein uses a multitude of film techniques in order to draw in the audience and express the emotions that he wants the audience to be feeling. By combining a selection of somber native music and old pictures of Native American people in traditional clothes similar to the ones that Chief Illiniwek wore, Rosenstein urges the audience to hear the perspectives of the Native people. He focuses this technique towards the individuals who are connected to mascots of this nature in an attempt to get them to take a walk in the shoes of the people on the other side of the debate.

Rosenstein also displays the interactions between the respective sides on the issue through the use of interviews and videos in the daily life of Teters. Transitioning from one perspective to the other makes the audience drawn into the day-by-day tension that was alive on the campus of the University of Illinois and growing nationwide. This technique pushes the audience to pick a side as if they were there when this was going on.

While he does emphasize his position on the issue, the other side is not being pushed to the background. Rosenstein portrays the comradery and community that comes along with the Chief and its ties to the university. He shows the students standing along with the Chief before events and alumni coming back and showing their support for their Fighting Illini. By showing the actual footage of students side by side and hearing first-hand accounts about the love they have for their school through

interviews allowed the disgruntled Native Americans to also hear the perspective of people who are pro-Chief.

Overall, *In Whose Honor?* is a well-crafted documentary that aids a blinded American society in seeing the racial injustice that lies before them on a platform that individuals interact with on a daily basis. Rosenstein respectfully informs Americans of their biased perspective and allows them to see the other side by enlightening them of an oppressed opinion.

Works Cited

In Whose Honor? Dir. Jay Rosenstein. New Day Films, 1997.