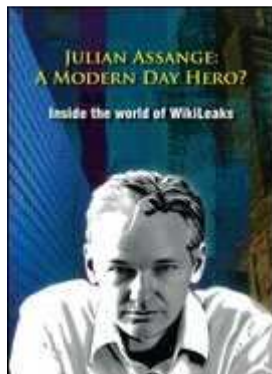




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Case Number 21395: Small Claims Court



Julian Assange: A Modern Day Hero?

[MVD Visual](#) // 2011 // 175 Minutes // Not Rated
Reviewed by Judge Jake Ware // May 21st, 2011

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All Rise...

Judge Jake Ware is the world's most dangerous man.

The Charge

"We get attacked when people don't like the message. We get attacked not in proportion to whatever we're doing right, but in proportion to the impact that our material is having. They'll attack the messenger and try message."—*Julian Assange*

The Case

I felt a small shudder run down my spine when upon inspecting the cover for **Julian Assange: A Modern Day Hero Inside The World of WikiLeaks** I read that it was *directed by* A.N. Other, who must surely be Alan Smith's cousin. When the director/producer of a DVD removes their name from the project or, even worse, suggests content of the DVD is the work of someone else, there is some cause for concern. I imagined a collection of downloaded from YouTube and packed together to form this three hour production. And I was not too far of

is an hour long peak into the media whirlwind created in July 2010 when WikiLeaks, with Julian Assange as i published online the Afghan War documents, a collection of some 75,000 documents cataloging 6 years of U action in war torn Afghanistan, and sometimes referred to as the Afghan War Diary. The film consists of a cc interviews and press conferences conducted by Assange as well as some behind the scenes footage shot by be a camera crew organized by WikiLeaks. I cannot confirm the sources of any of these clips, as they are no anywhere on this DVD.

This 60 minute segment is the most successful of the three as it manages to engage the viewer and even bu tension. It is a well edited piece, consisting of segments from various interviews with Assange in which he ta WikiLeaks' modus operandi, and mixing them with footage from a kinetic camera that follows Assange as he Afghan War Diary and then deals with the fallout that follows. The resulting footage is engrossing and the te develops reminded me of the better journalism and conspiracy thrillers of the '70s.

The major problem with this film is that it starts out of the blue, with no introductions or context to guide th then, just as it gains some momentum, it stops, again without any indication that it has done so and that we onto the next part of the DVD. The entire aftermath of the publishing of the Afghan War Diary is completely the consequent allegations brought against Assange, charges he claims are politically motivated and a smok to ease his extradition to the US and to muddy the message of WikiLeaks.

In fact, if you don't know anything about Julian Assange and WikiLeaks before sitting down to this DVD, you up being quite confused. Prior knowledge of the 2010 publishing of the Afghan War Diary is almost a require

The second and third segments are two one hour long lectures delivered by Assange about the WikiLeaks pr aims. Both date back to 2008-2009, although I could not confirm exact dates. The second lecture I believe t the HITB SecConf, Malaysia, in 2009. The content of both lectures is similar and the delivery rather dry, as y expect from a straight DV recording of a lecture.

If you think of this package as having a single 60 minute documentary with two 60 minute lectures as extra feel a great deal better about settling down to its 3 hours of runtime. The gist of the package is in those ope minutes. The rest is gravy.

The picture quality is less than stellar at its best, and downright ugly at its worst. But then, the point of this show off your latest 50" TV screen to your friends and neighbors, but rather the message that Assange deliv happily ignore that. The sound quality, likewise, varies and is at times barely audible due to misplaced micro ambient noise. This is a bit more problematic as I would expect to be able to hear the content without havin subtitles are supplied, making this even more of an irritation.

There is no doubt Julian Assange and WikiLeaks are doing some pretty impressive and important work. In a speech and journalism are being subverted and used by various powers to deliver a skewed and biased mes: like WikiLeaks has the potential to show us what old fashioned investigative journalism ought to be: the unc publishing of information of political, ethical and economic importance to us all. This film highlights this obje some of the mystique off the publicity shy Assange. However, you could probably source most of this conter and elsewhere online, so your decision about buying this DVD will probably depend on whether you consider while to pay someone to collect information on your behalf.

MVD Visual has done the viewer no favors with this release. The menus are too basic and the contents of th properly explained. What should have been a part of an Extras section on the DVD plays immediately after tl with no credits indicating the end of one part and the beginning of the next. There are no titles, no credits, a references aside from four URLs on the DVD cover, three of which didn't work when I tried them. This releas

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WIKILEAKS and their work are most deserving of a serious and in-depth feature. Sadly, this is not it.

Recommended

The Verdict

Guilty.

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