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Guns and Weed: The Road to Freedom

USA 2011

produced by

Neema Vedadi for Angry Peasant Films

directed by Michael W.Dean

starring Neema Vedadi, J-Tizzle, Richard Mack, Shane Scheid, Michael W.Dean, Debra Jean Dean, Susan Callaway, Mac R.Frank

written by Michael W.Dean, Neema Vedadi, music by Michael W.Dean, Neema Vedadi

documentary

review by

Mike Haberfelner

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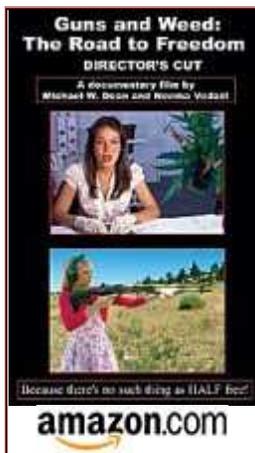
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In many ways, this is a documentary exactly to my liking, as it consciously refuses to endear itself to either the left or the right, basically by its inherent subject matter, as it advocates the right to smoke pot and to carry guns in equal measure. And it bases these rights on the USAmerican Bill of Rights itself, calls the two rights inseperable from one another - and this is an interesting approach that convinces at least me to a certain degree.

But while the idea is great in concept, it's flawed in detail. While the documentary touches all the right marks in terms of weed-use (inasmuch as there is no rational reason to outlaw marihuana - and I'm *not* a user), it falls several feet short of the target concerning gun laws. Basically, the film proposes to sell guns to whoever feels he needs one, assuming everyone would handle guns (which are known to be able to hurt and kill people) in a responsible way ... and that's simply a bit naive. Also the argument that gun control will inadvertently lead to dictatorship of the kind of Hitler, Stalin or Pol Pot is merely taking facts out of their historical contexts - there are many countries with tough gun laws that are doing all the better for it.

All that said, even if you don't agree with all the facts presented in this documentary, **Guns and Weed: The Road to Freedom** remains an interesting and well-made film: It's light-hearted in narration (including comedy and musical interludes that do not distract from the facts at hand), doesn't try to stuff the facts down your throat like some other documentaries, or confuses the concept of a documentary with (left-wing) agitprop the Michael Moore-way.

Sure, I don't agree with everything said in this film, but somehow I have the feeling my disagreeing is accepted here ...

review © by **Mike Haberfelner**

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