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MOVIE REVIEW

In Defense of Self-Defense

'Assaulted: Civil Rights Under Fire' Is a Paean to the Second Amendment

By ANITA GATES
Published: July 11, 2013

Opens on Friday in Manhattan.

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Assaulted: Civil Rights Under Fire

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Dead Patriot Films

A scene from this documentary narrated by Ice-T.

Directed by Kris Koenig

1 hour 19 minutes

So much for the dulcet-voiced narrator. [Ice-T](#), the actor and hip-hop star who narrates Kris Koenig's "Assaulted: Civil Rights Under Fire," sounds skeptical, angry and accusing throughout; he practically sneers the words "public safety." But then the script is not exactly neutral, either.

This documentary defending the Second Amendment is a diatribe against gun control. Widespread ownership of firearms is portrayed as the only way to protect women alone, people with disabilities and gay men vulnerable to hate crimes. The usual suspects are dragged out, connecting Hitler and Stalin with gun-control laws. Hey, a car can be a weapon too, one man says, predictably. Police forces are unreliable, we are told, and everyone needs to be prepared for "a civilian uprising against tyranny."

It's sad, really, because there are germs of rational argument here, especially in terms of the role of racism. If only we had a forum for these issues within 50 miles of an open mind. A number of the film's talking heads seem like intelligent people. One gun store owner even speaks positively about background checks.

On the other hand, Ted Nugent (identified on screen as "free American") makes his usual loose-cannon impression. The video clips supporting the film's arguments are from Fox News. And like so much of current polarized communication, "Assaulted," wherever it is shown, is likely to be preaching to the choir.

"Assaulted: Civil Rights Under Fire" is rated PG-13 (Parents strongly cautioned). Frequent gunfire and strong language.

A version of this review appears in print on July 12, 2013, on page C8 of the New York edition with the head Civil Rights Under Fire.

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July 15th, 2013 8:50 am

Rating: ●○○○○○

talk about phoning it in...

So basically everything said is dismissed out of hand because it's not from a good, liberal news source or it's been said before.

Seems to me that "Bowling for Columbine" should have gotten the exact same review, with a few of the names changed of course.

– *ExYankee, Atlanta, GA*

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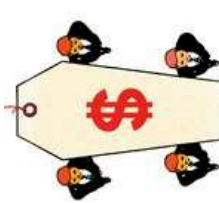
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