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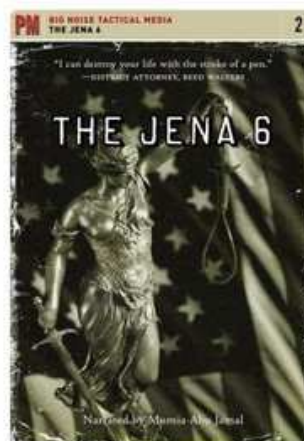
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Big Noise Tactical Media Vol. 2 – 5 – The Jena 6/Deserter/The War of 33/Venezuela - Revolution From The Inside Out (PM Press/Big House Films/MVD)



Picture: C Sound: C
Extras: C- Main
Programs: C+/C/C-/C-

There is definitely a new movement of Left and far Left political leanings that is coming from a highly disenfranchised new generation who feel that the government and especially the second Bush Administration find them disposable and worthless. As was the case in the 1960s, they feel there is nowhere to turn, Capitalism is easy to overgeneralize as evil and have revived approaches that feel like they are being handed down to them by survivors of Vietnam. Big Tactical News Media is releasing a series of titles supposedly addressing and educating the viewer on current ideas and outrages on DVD.

Unfortunately, the programs for the most part can be populist, only last a half-hour each (unacceptable for all the room on DVD) and are sometimes more shallow than expected. At the same time, they are pushing a political agenda they may not be coming forthright with, in part because they have something to hide and also by assuming everyone is on the same page with them. Both are mistakes.

Of the four volumes we looked at, the one of **The Jena 6** is interesting in interviewing those who have been ignored by the media in showing the amazing, ignorant institutionalized racism this small town has and how it is a microcosm of America as encouraged by default via The Bush Administration in their typical inaction.

Unfortunately, the program does not go far enough. **Deserter** offers the tale of several officers who went AWOL since 9/11, another highly censored story. Again, we do not get a deeper

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exploration except to say that these persons did it, were correct in their mind to not take place in what they see as a sham (that part has not been censored by the media as much) and the road again leads to Canada. Again, Vietnam déjà vu.

War of 33 shows how bad things are for the helpless in Beirut, but with a decidedly anti-Semite approach. It reminds me that Communism was initially against such hatred, but became the opposite when it degenerated into Stalinism, which is what begins to happen here. **Venezuela - Revolution From The Inside Out** simply becomes a metaphor for overthrowing government and capitalism, as if the Chavez dictatorship is some kind of good idea.

The naïve sense of these releases would be funny if the implications were not so ignorant and for those brainwashed into believing them, a dead end. But then, it reminds us in yet another way, those who do not know the mistakes of the past repeat them.

The various aspect ratios (including some which are slapped on very unprofessionally) are surprisingly consistent in low def on-the-fly picture quality if not often accurate. Some of the footage is interesting unintentionally. The Dolby Digital 2.0 is barely stereo and varies throughout in quality. The only extras include two featurettes on **Revolution** and an interview with an AWOL soldier on **Deserter**.

- Nicholas Sheffo

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