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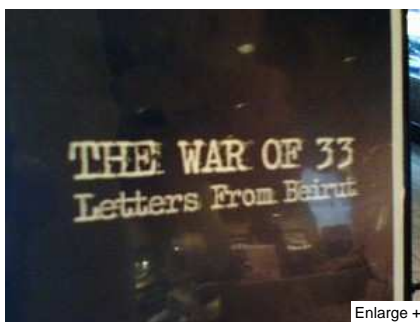
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Letters from Beirut: Film Review of *The Way of 33*



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The War of 33. Tragic.
Credit: Jesse Schmitt
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Letters from Beirut: Film Review of *The Way of 33*



By [Jesse Schmitt](#), published May 29, 2008

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Rating: 4.5 of 5

It seems curious to one whose life is not directly affected by the ravages of war that there are conflicts going on all over the world, all the time. People are fighting with other people, civilians are displaced, and lives are in chaos. This is the story of "The War of 33: Letters From Beirut;" a documentary released by Big Noise Tactical Media about the war in Lebanon from 2006.

Yes, 2006. Beginning in July and running through August, this is the story of one mother who wrote a series of letters about the bombing from Israel and the United State's complicity in it.

"The New York Times reports the Bush administration has agreed to send a rush delivery of satellite and laser guided bombs to Israel...Israeli officials believe they have approval from the United States to keep attacking Lebanon for at least another week."

"Sometimes the world likes to take the easy route in order to solve a problem. Our view is it's time to address root causes of problems. And to create a vacuum is unacceptable; it would mean that we haven't addressed the root cause."

This film was obviously skewed in one direction but the overall message is galling. The fact that the top quote above is from an American news program is upsetting; the fact that the second quote is from the President himself is particularly distressing. The letters which dictate most of the running narrative of this film were written by Hanady Salman - a mother who lived through this war in Beirut.

There were flashes of imagery in this short film which were infuriating to say the least: women crying talking about their thirteen year old sons now being "the man of the house" and the imagery of these thirteen year olds cleaning up the devastation from the bombing, superimposed images of the view from a plane as it bombed a building in Beirut, devastated women crying, men covering their mouths in horror, older folks with their head in their hands wondering how any of this could have happened.

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