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# Single: a documentary film - Review


<http://tinape.com/Single-a-documentary-film-Review.html>

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*Single: a documentary film*, a new doc revolving around the idea of singles in America, is brilliantly done—and not just because it left me feeling a whole lot better about the prospect of my own imminent, long lasting singledom. The film, directed by married Richard Atkinson and single Jane Scandurra, was initially Scandurra's idea. She approached Atkinson because of his previous work in documentary film (*Pluck, Divine Light*). Although the project began with a focus on the laws of discrimination against single people, Atkinson acknowledges:



Jane Scandurra giving direction at bar in NYC

"It wasn't until we shot some of the people that we realized we should take the film in a different direction."

*Single* delves into a plethora of issues about being single in America, from the role of the burgeoning independence of women to the social stigma of men, all backed up by the candid testimonies of single 30 somethings and knowledgeable sociologists. Although the film touches on many topics, the discussions always seem to flow together naturally. The editing facilitates the seamless narration from professional opinions to the anecdotes of bar patrons.



Richard Atkinson directing interview at bar in NYC

Atkinson and Scandurra asked their single participants similar questions and allowed them free reign in their response. "People were not shy about it," Scandurra commented. Atkinson agreed, pointing out that talking about being single, "made them [participants] feel better." But, because of this openness by participants, much had to be left on the cutting room floor, "We

have over 50 hours of raw footage," said Scandurra. "We could probably make three different films."

*Single* does a great job of presenting a non-critical reflection of the uncoupled in America. This was an important factor to the filmmakers. "It was important for us not to be judgmental," said Atkinson of the film. "We were trying to portray it [being single] with a snap shot of time...which is pretty unusual for a documentary."

The film also does not attempt to solve the "problem" of being single.

"We don't have any answers, that's for sure," commented Scandurra. But, she also made it known that, "being single is not a condition that needs to be cured...if nothing else comes across, I think its nothing wrong with being single."

Ultimately I took two great life lessons from the film: one being that I am too young to worry about having a significant other; the other that even if in the next twenty years I find myself without a husband and children, (just writing that makes me want to chastise myself for thinking so far in the future), if I am content, that is all that matters.



Bar Crowd from Single

"People should be happy," said Scandurra. And I agree wholeheartedly.

Besides great takes on single life in America, the film also showcases cool independent artists such as Sera Buras, Elza, Ignacio Uriarte and more. Check out these artists and more information about the film and its cast at <http://www.singlefilm.com/>. *Single* plays at Anthology Film Archives July 22 as part of the New Filmmaker Series.