[Sydney Film Festival 2010] Film Review: Ordinary People « T...
abandoned collection of buildings in the countryside, where they escape the heat, sitting under trees, splashing themselves with water, smoking – and wondering what they are waiting for. By the end of the day, Dzoni will have transformed from an innocent to a cog in the wheel of war.

Perisic gives us plenty of room the breathe, and for the imagination to un-furl. His composition is dominated by long static shots, held interminably; the film opens with a pitch black screen, as noises fade in; a door opens, and someone yells into the pitch black room – ‘get up soldiers’; we begin to hear stirrings of men; we hold on this image, of light shining through a doorway, for exactly two minutes, before it cuts to the first shot of our protagonist.

Dialogue is at a bare minimum, and character exposition is slowly, subtly built – all we need to know is that Dzoni is young, inexperienced, basically humanitarian, and hasn’t had a good relationship with his dad. He joined the army because he couldn’t find work; when the army came calling, he thought ‘why not?’ He is one among many ‘ordinary people’ in his unit – called upon to extra-ordinary things.

Perisic’s thesis is simple, but powerfully constructed; although it is slow, there is no spare meat, and it runs only 80 minutes. The cinematography is spare but elegant, and colour palette of blues, greens and browns add to the generally glacial feeling. Economical, restrained storytelling, and with a real eye for composition – I’m so glad to have caught this filmmaker’s debut feature. [DJ]
Assistant & Arts Editor: Dee Jefferson
Staff Writer: Jake Stone
News Coordinators: Nathan Jolly (Rock News) & Chris Honnery (Dance News)
Art Director: Sarah Bryant
Graphic Design: Irina Belova
Cover Design: Sarah Bryant
Senior Photographer: Tim Levy
Advertising: Les White + Mark Brownie + Sara Golchin
Gig & Club Guide Coordinator: Christian Moraga
Call us on: (02) 9552 6333

Recent Posts
- This week in the Brag:
  - [Sydney Film Festival 2010] Review: Teenage Paparazzo
  - [Sydney Film Festival 2010] Review: Police, Adjective
  - [Sydney Film Festival 2010] Review: Last Train Home
  - [Sydney Film Festival 2010] Review: City of Life and Death
  - [Sydney Film Festival 2010] Review: GasLand
  - [Sydney Film Festival 2010] Review: New Beijing: Reinventing a City
  - [Sydney Film Festival 2010] Review: The Waiting City
  - [Sydney Film Festival 2010] Review: Kawasaki’s Rose
  - [Sydney Film Festival 2010] Review: The Disappearance of Alice Creed

What are you looking for?
Select Category

What page are you after?
- About The Brag

The Brag Twitters
- The Laugh Garage has hosted many international acts as well as local ones-The Punchline Comedy Club! http://www.thelaughgarage.com 1 week ago
- Looking for films to see tonight? Check out our blog - and heaps more reviews from #SvfFilmFest - http://thebrag.wordpress.com 1 month ago
- Pick up Brag today for our Sydney Film Festival cover + section: what you can't miss - plus more reviews of the films http://tiny.cc/bl1y2 1 month ago

Calendar
June 2010
MM/ThW T F S S