

Where is the limit, who is the border guard?

“The truth of lie” a new haunting cinema experiment by Roland Reber

Mind games with full body commitment. Without the safety net or the double floor of german film funding.

The films of Roland Reber and his small committed team are discoveries from an independent cinema which are rare in the international film community. In its mixture of naivety and professionalism, it's like it was cultivated in the classic American B-movie genre.

A cinema which followed fantastically winding paths only to end terrifyingly close to the reality. When shooting is finished the work for Reber is not done. Then he and his team accompany the film to the cinemas for projections and discussions. “The truth of lie”, one has to read the title of the film not only in a philosophical way.

Just as well it could shine flashy and aggressive on the poster of a 40's or 50's thriller. Again an experimental film. Two women agreed to a strange game, chained up in a dungeon. A young man who casts himself pretentiously as an author of a scientific study wants to break their self confidence through various procedures and torments.

“Limit experiences are only possible on the limit” he says “but where is the limit, where the border guard?”. In a game about dominance and submission, sadism and masochism he acts rather miserable – because he doesn't notice that he himself is a guinea pig.

His publisher breaths down his neck played by the impressive Antje Nikola Mönning. She controls the scene like a dominatrix, diva like.

The film is a labyrinth; the location determining its character, a magically illuminated old factory through which the phantom of liberty, the ghost of beautiful romantic irony, haunts. The most horrific scene in this theater of Roland Reber – a theater of cruelty and epic poetry – is when the captives are made up and act as marionettes.

One shouldn't shy away from this deeper insight, that perhaps, the border guard is ultimately the audience?”

The Truth of Lie, D 2011

writer, director, Roland Reber. camera, editing, Mira Gittner. Cast: Christoph Baumann, Marina Anna Eich, Julia Jaschke, Antje Nikola Moenning. wtp international 98 minutes