

Münchner Merkur, Kultur – 16.02.06, Review by Zoran Gojic
Rated: "Worth Seeing"

In the hobby room

Good citizens, sex and melancholy

Afterwards one is some kind of helpless, only one thing is for sure: this film differs from all other German productions in the nearer past. Director Roland Reber tells an unconventional fable from the hobby room of this country. There people live up to their desires, longings and passion. Dramaturgic peg to hang on is the encounter of Eve (Marina Anna Eich) and part-time dominatrix Magdalena (Mira Gittner). Eve starts, with proficient direction, to explore her own sensuality and sexuality. She discovers to her own amazement, that after work many good fellows look for the sense of their existence in excessively lived physical contacts.

Shot independently, without any resources from film funding, "24/7 The Passion of Life" does not fulfil neither the formal nor technical criteria of a cinema movie. And so the scenes in the S&M Studio and swingers club appear sterile, wooden and despite all liberality inhibited. What is so fascinating about it is, that one gets the suspicion that it is in fact the way it is. Average citizens who meet to do something despicable – a bowling club without underwear so to say. Reber has the courage to break the story with lyrical interludes, in which the protagonists are philosophizing about their action and motivation. There, even humour appears. But the basic tenor is melancholic. The search for real closeness, that always remains unsuccessful, the helpless hope to be able to separate Love and Sexuality, the restless escape into new sufferings, in order to forget the old ones – Reber caught this up in a good way, even if his reflections are not always as deep as they pretend to be.

A film that is worth seeing, which one has not to like, but which incites to reflection. There are not a great lot of films from which you could honestly say so.

Worth seeing.

Zoran Gojic

(source: *Münchner Merkur*, 16.2.2006)