

Roughly 60 years after Executive Order 9066 initiated the Japanese internment during WWII, many Americans have been taught the historical implications of this horrific event. Few can speak to the reality of living through such a nightmarish experience. *The Cats of Mirikitani* doesn't regurgitate facts from a textbook, but instead tells the story of Jimmy Mirikitani, a talented artist who spent multiple years confined at Tule Lake and now lives on the streets of New York City. Director Linda Hattendorf sets out to create a documentary observing Jimmy living as a homeless person. As such, Jimmy's drawings of cats are on full display during the documentary. The camera lingers on Jimmy's artwork, almost obsessively so that the audience becomes transfixed by his hands moving rhythmically.

The act of drawing helps him express the feeling of isolation that has festered for decades. This ongoing trauma has contributed to his homelessness and general disdain for the US government. *The Cats of Mirikitani* depicts the long-lasting psychological effects that the Japanese internment still has on its victims.

When the events of 9/11 destroy the twin towers the film rebuilds itself. The film takes on the perspective of Jimmy living with Linda. Linda's role as director shifts from a passive watcher to an active caregiver of Jimmy. Linda tries to make Jimmy eligible for Social Security. While this is taking place the audience is treated to Linda and Jimmy's day to day dynamic. As Jimmy explains the meaning behind his portraits. Linda uses the portraits to transition between the events of the Japanese internment in the current day events of 9/11. These transitions strengthens the parallels between 9/11 and Japanese internment. This comparison is still very prevalent in today's standards it teaches us not to give in to fear and paranoia that ultimately lead to the same atrocities created the Japanese internment.

The film excels at being vibrantly human whether it be the compassion and patience Linda shows Jimmy, or the inflicted trauma of government corruption. The film is edited brilliantly transitioning from fictionalized depictions of 9/11 the real event. Film ends with a realistic resolution Jimmy returns to the pays his respects and is reunited with his sister.

The camera focuses on the relentless snowfall of New York City illustrating the freezing temperatures Jimmy has to endure on a daily basis

The audiences is hypnotized by Jimmy's constant drawings is the camera focuses in on them.

The cats follows the perspective of Jimmy living with Linda

When Jimmy goes to the Social Security office he refuses to take the checks. Stating that he hates America and wishes to live in Japan.

Linda and Jimmy have a very human relationship. In the documentary you see how patient Linda is with Jimmy, he lets her live in her house.

changes the narrative, looks at the ongoing trauma of the victim

Visceral doc, like fiction but not, man believes the govt. Is out to get him, feels out of place in his own home.

Fear of gov. Mistreatment,

Editing, hypnotic, matches the sequences of drawing, match cuts, human documentary,

Goes back to the camp, confronts his historical trauma, staring at the camp where he once experienced all of this trauma

Jimmy Mirikitani

Linda Hattendorf

*The Cats of Mirikitani* is a visceral documentation of the Japanese internment.

The Cats of Mirikitani Is a documentary directed by Linda H.

Jimmy is living proof that Japanese people still feel the effects of the Japanese internment. He is paranoid of taking Social Security checks because he is afraid of his government abusing him. He says that he would rather move Japan and forgo his US citizenship.

The movie opens to a visceral shot of Jimmy freezing in the cold, covered in coats. The audience is freezing with him. The camera then zeroing in on Jimmy's hypnotic drawings. His hand is moving relentlessly sketching drawing cats in the cold. Linda invites Jimmy to stay with her.

In the film's chronology it passes 9/11 and from that point on it draws heavy parallels between 9/11 and Japanese internment. This comparison is still very prevalent in today's standards it teaches us not to give in to fear and paranoia that ultimately lead to committing atrocities.

The cats leave you. Soundtrack injects somber tones throughout the entire movie viewing experience appropriately so as.

The film uses brilliant transitions at times it focuses on Jimmy's drawings

Jimmy is distrusting of the government because he is scared of another internment.

The film does a great job of transitioning between his drawings and the atrocities around him.

The cats is a great film for showing a long-lasting psychological and rife some Japanese-Americans have the US government.