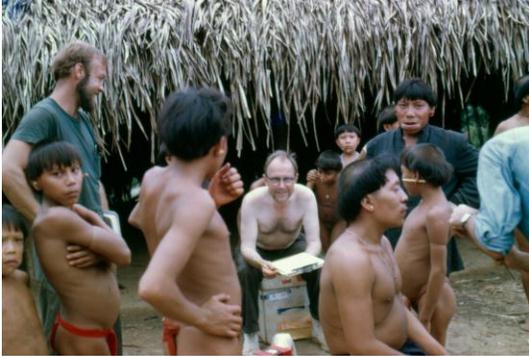


Secrets of the Tribe



Jose Padilha
2010
94 min.
Brazil
English, Spanish, Italian with English subtitles

Director Jose Padilha has established himself as one of Brazil's most exciting cinematic voices, tackling both documentaries like "Bus 174" and fiction like "Elite Squad." In "Secrets of the Tribe", he returns to documentary to investigate how anthropologists have studied – and sometimes disrupted - the Amazon's Yanomami tribes. Drawing inspiration from Patrick Tierney's book "Darkness in El Dorado," Padilha explores multiple claims of academic adventurism run amok. The film is full of controversial characters including Napoleon Chagnon who dubbed the Yanomami as "The Fierce People" then was assailed for that label; Jacques Lizot, who was reviled in the Amazon as a sexual predator and hailed in France as an anthropological hero; and Kenneth Good who brought a Yanomami woman to the U.S. as his wife. This invigorating film forces us to rethink our assumptions – not only about the Yanomami, but also the wider world of academia and journalism.

BASIC DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Do you think that more advanced societies have the right to study less advanced ones?
- Do you think that you might want to study isolated tribes?
- What do you think we learn from the study of Anthropology?
- What do you think the film is trying to show or say?

DEEPER DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Do you think that someone can be lauded for their work even when they victimized the people who were involved in that work?
- Do you think that someone who has lived in a less technologically advanced society can adjust to living in a significantly more technologically advanced society?
- Do you think that the information gathered by Anthropologists is worth the disruption that occurs to the people they study?

FURTHER RESEARCH FOR DISCUSSION

This issue of study for the greater good versus possible or actual damage to the individual(s) being studied can be a complex one. Using different research tools, find facts and statistics to support your answers to the following questions:

- How can humans study other humans without harming or disrupting them?



- Should humans even venture to study isolated or “primitive” tribes? Do we have that “right”?
- Who should hold anthropologists (or other scientists) accountable for their actions while studying and/or interacting with their subjects? How should they be held accountable for these actions?

ACTIVITIES

Creative Art/Design:

- Design a visual piece of art that reflects what you thought about this film
- Design a visual piece of art that reflects what you think about humans studying other humans and how that interaction might be positive or negative.

Creative Writing:

- What was your favorite part of the film? Pick one of the people you saw in the film and write a story about him/her and how their lives might have been before the anthropologists came. How did their lives change because of the anthropologists? What happened after they left? Your story can be a fantasy or it can be realistic.

Suggested resources:

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anthropology>

www.aaanet.org

<http://www.insidehighered.com/news/2008/11/24/anthro>

<http://zeroanthropology.net/2007/11/09/politics-and-ethics-anthropologists-and-human-terrain-systems/>

STANDARDS

Main standards covered include Florida State K9-12: **Language Arts, Geography, Science, World Issues, Current Events**

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