

Film Title and Release Date: *Los Angeles Plays Itself* (2003)

Film Length in Minutes: 169 Minutes

Film Genre: Documentary

Reviewer Name and Grade: James B., 9th Grade

Date Reviewed: May 31, 2022

This film is a documentary centered around how Los Angeles is presented in movies. The information in this film is presented by the use of clips and skits from other films with narration. This film uses clips from different popular films that are widely known. The film is very successful in teaching about how Los Angeles is presented in films, and it's very intriguing to see the differences between real life Los Angeles and how it is portrayed in film. The producer and documentarians did a very good job at providing a balanced perspective as opposed to being biased in one way or another. This documentary wasn't originally released commercially. Originally it was only shown in screenings held by the producer (Thom Anderson). It was kept this way for 11 years until it was announced to be releasing publicly in 2014. This documentary does a great job of introducing the topic quickly, as well as explaining it well throughout the documentary. Anderson covered many of the pros of Los Angeles, for example it was able to act as a stand in for many big cities like Chicago or New York. Anderson also covered many of the cons of how Los Angeles is displayed. An example of this was how in real life LA was very different from in movies.

How did you find the film on Kanopy?

I found the film through casual browsing.

Did the presentation of information keep you interested?

Yes, I personally loved how Anderson used former movie clips to present information.

Was the pace of the film too fast, too slow, or just right?

I felt the pace of the film was a bit slow. 169 minutes was a bit too long for me.

What grade level(s) is this film appropriate for?

This documentary is appropriate for any grade level above 5th (some of the language is difficult to understand)

I would rate this film *3 stars*.

I felt this film was a great idea and was produced in a very cool way. However, I felt the film was just too long. Maybe I just have a short attention span, but I felt that the film just lost me at certain points. Despite this, the film was still pretty good. Anybody interested in film would most likely enjoy it a lot. However I just didn't enjoy it as much as I thought I would.