

Film Title and Release Date: *Whirlybird* (2020)

Length of Film in Minutes: 103 Minutes

Film Genre: Documentary

Reviewer Name and Grade: Ayush M., 8th Grade

Date Reviewed: March 30, 2022

Whirlybird focuses on the husband and wife team of Marika Gerrard and Bob Tur, and the story of their innovative work in shooting breaking story news footage from a helicopter and some of the raw messiness of the images they shot that went straight from their cameras onto the television screens. But then, so does the story they are telling. "Whirlybird" glances over some of the deeper and more significant elements of the story. Marika says that she spent more time thinking about whether the camera was in focus, and who they could license the footage to, than about what she was filming. We could have used more about how the changes in technology and expansion of news programming from two hours a day to 24/7 shaped the way news was delivered to the audience. For less than a minute, "Whirlybird" touches on how the more lurid and shocking images, sometimes described as the "if it bleeds, it leads" policy of local news programs, contributed to a distorted understanding of race and threats of violence. The Film is presented as it was show to the audiences of the time with a dialog, It is successful in teaching the viewers about the topic, and is unbiased.

How did you find the film on Kanopy (by title search, subject search, casual browsing, etc.)?

I found the film on kanopy by browsing

Did the plot (for fictional movie) or presentation of information (for documentary) keep you interested?

The plot did not keep me interested

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

The film pace was just right

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

The film is appropriate for grades 6-12.

Rating:

I would rate this a 1/5 because the film was overall not interesting and of bad quality.