

Three Lessons (How to shoot a gun)

A film by Stephen Sewell

36 minutes / HD / 16:9 / Stereo / USA / Not Rated
In English

Stills available at: www.stephensewell.com/three_lessons.html

Booking Contact:
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Synopsis:

Three Lessons (How to shoot a gun) is an essay film that examines the reproduction and naturalization of gun culture while deconstructing the notion of gun culture as monolith. It follows a young woman as she travels across the United States to learn how to operate a firearm from three men of different backgrounds and ideological points of view. The video forestalls discussion of the Second Amendment in favor of examining gun culture in relation to history, identity/identification and the reproduction of ideologies. Through a montage of instructional, interview and found footage the film underscores the gaps and contradictions that arise between disparate experiences of gun culture and uses these dissonances to identify the underlying political, economic and social forces shaping them. As the film shifts between these individual experiences and larger determining forces the realization that these customs of gun ownership are not given but historically practiced, and developed in response to social contradictions, becomes apparent and the capacity for change more evident and necessary.

Screenings and Awards:

The Art of Brooklyn Film Festival (2023) – Winner: Outstanding Short Documentary
Docs Without Borders Film Festival (2022)
Teachable Moments (2020) – exhibition at Stove Works, Chattanooga, TN
Target Margin Theater (2020) – special screening, Brooklyn NY
Harlem International Film Festival (2020) – World Premiere

About the filmmaker:

Stephen Sewell is an artist, filmmaker and educator based in Brooklyn, NY. His films merge experimental and documentary techniques to present new ways of encountering and understanding the intersections and interactions of culture, politics and histories. His works have been presented at the Art of Brooklyn Film Festival (winner Outstanding Documentary Short), Harlem International Film Festival, Target Margin Theater and Artists Space; and he has lectured and participated on panel discussions at the University of Birmingham, University College London, University of Hertfordshire, Queens Museum and the Pacific Northwest College of Art. He is an alumnus of the Whitney Independent Study Program and Art & Law Program. He teaches film and media production courses as an Adjunct Assistant Professor at CUNY–Brooklyn College and Fordham University.

Credits:

Photographed and edited:

Stephen Sewell

Music by:

Stephen Sewell

Sound design and re-recording mix by:

Simon Grenier-Poirier

Produced and directed by:

Stephen Sewell in collaboration with Youree Choi

Thanks:

Christopher
Paul
Rob
Alia Al-Sabi
Youree Choi
Ron Clark
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Filipe de Sousa
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Greg Lindquist
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