

The Times of the Cherries (Haim Buzaglo 1991)

What is the film's theme?

This film talks about the Lebanon war in Israel. The protagonist (Mickey) is a normal man with a family that was called to fight the Shiite terrorist, he will be also choose as a protagonist of a documentary filmed by an American journalist. The film has two main point, the brutality of war no one know where they can be attacked and who might be die because no one know who can be a terrorist and that create a thick sense of anxiety during the film. This anxiety exist before the scene of war and that is the second main point of the film, because the struggle of the protagonist that have to leave his house, family and work to take a part of a war that he don't really want to fight to serve his country (there are two strong scene at the graveyard or the scene just before the departure of Mickey). There a lot of scene of party or happiness in this film because in my opinion because without them it will be too much stressful to see.

Describe the sequence of Shoko's (Sasson Gabai) death until the Minefield scene. What can be said about the cinematic utterance of this sequence? How the camera and sound choices serve the theme of the film and express it audio-visually?

This scene is the strongest of the film for despair and love, this feelings collapse each other in a unique take. The choice of the sacral sing bring to the scene a sense of oblivion and cruelty of the war that it can take away all the thing you love but the scene after that is complementary, love triumphs over the sadness and the despair. This scene was very impactful for me and as I said in the answer before this the director know how to play with the feeling of the audience without abusing of them.

What is the meaning of Mickey's profession? How is it used in the film? How is it related to the film's theme?

Mickey work in an advertising company, he idealize and write the slogan for the company. Meanwhile he received the letter from the army he was working on a cigarettes slogan. During the film he expose the idea of use influent people picture to help the slogan on the cigarettes pack. After his death, his picture will be used as a slogan from the company, that make me think that he become a sort of hero for his homeland after the release of the documentary filmed while he was fighting against the terrorist. The company and his homeland use his imagine as a symbol of the right fight that they are doing in Lebanon.