



A HARD WORLD FOR LITTLE THINGS

Production Type..... Experimental Short Film
Runtime..... 1'46"
Completion Date..... November 2016
Language..... English
Country of Origin..... United States
Country of Filming..... United States
Format..... 1920x1080, 29.97fps, 1.66:1, color, Sound Stereo
Rating.....
Sales / Distribution..... Sonja Bertucci - sonjamilka@gmail.com - ph. 510-457-8389
Links..... Vimeo: <https://vimeo.com/190512621> (Password: Toys)

SYNOPSIS

Inspired by Charles Laughton's "The Night of the Hunter," the film examines the uncanny nature of toys and how objects of childhood can overload the imagination with violence.

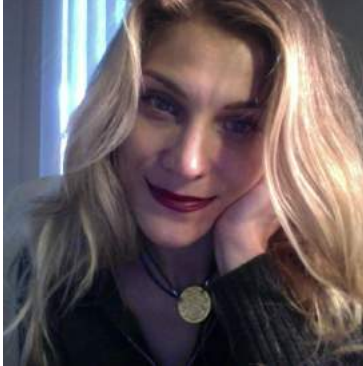


TRAILER: <https://vimeo.com/198824216>

Password: Toys



DIRECTOR BIO and STATEMENT



Sonja Bertucci is a Los Angeles based filmmaker and scholar. She has an MFA in Film and Video from California Institute of the Arts as well as a PhD in French Literature and Film Studies from UC Berkeley. Originally from France, she has taught at numerous institutions of higher learning in the US (including Occidental College, Temple University, UC Berkeley, Duke University, Miami University, and Concordia College). In dialogue with her academic research, her films take a poetic-experimental approach to documentary filmmaking and have focused so far on the question of ephemerality, representations of grief and loss, and the struggle for personal and communal survival within a web of geopolitical events that diminish possibilities for agency. Her first feature-length documentary entitled *Stranger from Within*, a personal and political film about Serbian culture in Kosovo, screened at the RedCat Theater in Los Angeles and won the Special Jury Award at Beldocs International Documentary Film Festival in May 2015.

A Hard World For Little Things (2016)

A mixture of fairy tale, film noir, and gangster movie, Charles Laughton's *The Night of the Hunter* (1955) is also a film that captures the contradictions and complexities of childhood: its flight into an imaginary world when faced with the adversity of the adult world. The dreamy darkness of childhood jars with the brutality of adulthood, but the film shows how both realms overlap while transforming each other. Inspired by a desire to pay tribute to Laughton's film, even if only obliquely and without any explicit visual references, I wanted to create a piece which was true to its spirit. *A Hard World for Little Things* shows how toys mediate the violence of the adult world, thereby exposing us to this violence from the very earliest instances of childhood. The film approaches this task not merely by bringing three different yet related spheres into contact--play, sex and violence--but also by duplicating this violence on a formal level, using a faced-paced, flickering editing strategy. The film transforms seemingly innocent images of art and collector objects into a nightmarish vision. The film does not intend to glamorize violence; Rachel's words from *The Night of the Hunter* deplore the cruelty of the world inflicted on children. Likewise, *A Hard World for Little Things* unveils the uncanny nature of toys, revealing with brute force the invisible and, at times, necessary destructiveness at the source of innocent pleasure.

CREDITS

CREDITS

Camera, Sound, Edit	Sonja Bertucci
Additional Camera	Nora Sweeney
Music	The Battles, Yabba
Sound Design	Sonja Bertucci, Andrew Kim
Sound Mix	Craig Smith