KOSOVO: TO BE A WOMAN IN KOSOVO

Director(s): Victoria SCHULTZ

Writer(s): Victoria SCHULTZ

June 2002. Three years after the end of the war in Kosovo, the voices and very personal experience of the WOMEN IN KOSOVO of this film clearly demonstrate the power that "traditional social rules" still hold over them and which impose a rule of conduct onto them, especially in the villages of the countryside.
The code of the 'Kanun' describes the customary law, an ancient tradition that dates back centuries - long before Islam arrived in the tiny Balkan province of Kosovo.

In this post-war situation; old traditions such as arranged marriages have resurfaced. We attend one of them: the bride is barely seventeen; her groom is already a war veteran at age twenty. They set eyes on each other for the fist time on the day of their wedding. She had to be a virgin, of course. Kosovo Albanians also practice their Muslim faith again. Many young girls have even taken to wearing hthe veil. They pray and study in a 'madrassa', an Islamic school.

Some women, however, take advantage of the possibilities offered by the transient post-war situation and, despite all the hardship and constraints, we meet young joyful women who just might have the courage and strength to shape another, more liberal kind of future for the WOMEN OF KOSOVO.

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