

Film review for

Anexperimentalviralblog the movie remix #1

Dir. Vasco Diogo

When Jack Kerouac sat down to write the first draft of his classic American beat novel 'On the Road', legend has it that he fed a long ream of paper into his typewriter, did the same to himself with 'diet-pills' then didn't stop typing for a whole two days until the book was complete. In Vasco Diogo's compilation of experimental video blogs we get a similar sensation of someone who has accessed an inner stream-of-consciousness and is presenting it directly to us.

The visually confrontational imagery of Diogo's film sets the tone of the short film from the very start. Bold colours and stark patterns assault the senses as a central figure, the director himself, reels off a seemingly nonsensical barrage of words. We're not so much watching the performance as we are participating in it from within his head looking out. It's as if the unfiltered thoughts were allowed to coalesce around us, the focus point for much of the duration being Diogo's amiable face. All around him swirl colours and shapes, like a mix between a child's kaleidoscope and an intense visual migraine. While there is a certain sense of repetition it's more like an accumulation, and there's enough variety within the techniques used that what might have become quickly stale never does.

Compiled from the artist's video blog and presented as a single piece, 'the movie remix #1', goes beyond the standard format of an art film by directly addressing its origins. At one point, Diogo responds to comments left in response to the film's original guise as an online video. This acknowledgement humanises what is an alienating and deliberately difficult visual assault. Most films of this ilk that describe themselves as 'experimental' are anything but. Anything since 'Chess Fever' that professes to be experimental has a tough time justifying the moniker. Here, though, we get the sense of something novel in that the film has taken an almost mundane and quotidian form and, without betraying the core of that medium, allowed it to break off into a new area. Much like Oldfield's album 'Amarok' which deliberately frustrated its record label by never having an idea last long enough to turn into a hit single, so too does 'Anexperimentalviralblog the movie remix #1'. The constantly shifting backgrounds keep the film lively and engaging. Seemingly every editing technique is used, and though it never reaches a vertiginous level of fidelity, for an experimental blog it retains a certain DIY charm.

Diogo says that the piece is not comic vlog but, despite protestations, it is humorous. The central character is desperate and self-serious and so detached from his surroundings, then ultimately self-aware to a meta-textual level, that it's hard to not admire the wit contained within.