

Isabella Ribeiro

Professor Beverley C. Locke

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City of God

"City of God" is a Brazilian crime and drama movie directed by Fernando Meirelles and co-directed by Kátia Lund, released in 2002. Based on the homonymous novel by Paulo Lins, the film portrays the growth of crime in the "Cidade de Deus/ City of God" neighborhood of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from the 1960s to the 1980s. The film features a powerful narrative, excellent direction and cinematography, and social commentary.

The narrative opens with a young boy named Rocket (Alexandre Rodrigues) who wants to be a photographer but lives in a neighborhood plagued by gang violence, drugs, and poverty. He resides in the notorious favela of "Cidade do Deus," which is run by drug traffickers. The movie tracks Rocket's journey as he negotiates the dangerous City of God. The film follows Rocket's journey as he navigates the violent world of City of God and the gangs that rule it. We meet several characters, including Li'l Zé (played by Leandro Firmino da Hora), a ruthless drug dealer who takes over the neighborhood after killing his rival Cenoura (played by Matheus Nachtergaele), and Knockout Ned (played by Seu Jorge), a man seeking revenge against Li'l Zé for killing his brother.

The violence, destitution, and hopelessness that many residents of the favelas experience are all depicted in the film as part of the terrible reality of living there. With kids as young as ten getting involved in drug sales, it also demonstrates the effects of drug trafficking on the

neighborhood—violence, and tension increase throughout the movie, building to a tragic and dramatic conclusion. Rocket can be seen using his camera to record the action throughout the movie, giving us a glimpse into "Cidade de Deus" life as it is.

The film portrays the brutal reality of poverty, crime, and drug addiction while telling a captivating tale of life in Rio de Janeiro's favelas. The characters are well-developed, and the storyline is engaging, making for a powerful and moving viewing experience. The film's direction and cinematography are first-rate, with a blend of documentary-style footage and stylized camera work that makes sense of the immersion in the world of favelas. The use of color, long shots, and quick cuts help convey the film's themes and mood powerfully and effectively. The film offers a social critique of issues such as poverty, inequality, and violence in Brazil. It sheds light on the lives of people who are often marginalized and forgotten and raises essential questions about the social and political factors contributing to these issues.

The cinematography of "City of God" is one of its most notable features and has been widely praised by critics and audiences alike. The film features a blend of documentary-style footage and stylized camerawork that creates a sense of chaos and immersion in the world of favelas. The film uses handheld cameras and fast cuts to create a sense of urgency and energy, particularly during the action-packed, violent scenes. The camera often moves quickly, capturing the frenetic pace of life in the favelas, and is used to create a sense of immersion in the scene, putting the viewer right in the middle of the action.

One of the film's most striking techniques is the use of freeze frames and quick cuts to illustrate the different characters' stories. For example, when we are introduced to Li'l Zé, the camera freezes on her face, and we see a series of quick cuts that show her violent rise to power. The use of color is also a significant aspect of the film's cinematography. The filmmakers used

bright, bold colors, particularly in the characters' clothing and environments, to create a sense of vibrancy and life in the favelas. This contrasts with the film's darker and more violent themes, highlighting the hope and vitality of the people living in Cidade de Deus despite their harsh circumstances. The cinematography of "City of God" also features several long shots and panoramic views that show the sprawling and often chaotic nature of the favelas. These shots help create a sense of scale and perspective, allowing the viewer to see the environment and social conditions in which the characters live.

"City of God" is a powerful and thought-provoking film that offers a unique perspective on life in the favelas of Rio de Janeiro. It is a must-see for anyone interested in social justice, powerful storytelling, and great movies. It is a powerful and courageous film that explores the complex issues of poverty, violence, and drug addiction in Brazil's favelas. Much praised for its photography, direction, and acting, it remains a milestone in Brazilian cinema.