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No No: A Dockumentary

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No No: A Dockumentary

Abstract

This is a film review of No No: A Dockumentary (2014), directed by Jeffrey Radice.

Author Notes

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Blizek: No No: A Dockumentary

No No: A Dockumentary
(2014)
directed by Jeffrey Radice
U.S. Documentary

No No: A Dockumentary is the story of Pittsburgh Pirate pitcher, Dock Ellis. Dock played for the Pirates at a time when many baseball players used drugs of various sorts and Dock was no exception.



Although he once pitched a no hitter under the influence of LSD, for the most part his drug use cost him two marriages and shortened his career. After reaching rock bottom, Dock Ellis checked himself into rehab and stayed there longer than necessary, determined to be successful in his rehabilitation. Eventually Dock Ellis became a drug and alcohol counselor, helping others who were dealing with drug and alcohol addiction.

Dock Ellis' story is one of redemption. In the later years of his life, he made a significant effort to make up for what he had done in his younger years. He made the effort to redeem himself. There are many redemption stories in film. We enjoy them, primarily because we like to think that there is hope, hope that we can make up for in some way the bad things that we have done in our lives. There is, of course, the Christian idea of redemption, where Jesus dies for our sins. But for many people redemption is not something we are given, but something we earn. We have to work for our redemption. This is a common thing in our lives, trying to make up for our mistakes, our bad behavior, the evil we have done. Redemption is an important part of our moral behavior, of who we are as moral beings, yet redemption is not something you will ever hear

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discussed in a philosophy class. Redemption is not about doing the right thing, but rather

about being a good person. Movies, unlike philosophy classes, give us examples of

characters who seek redemption, who earn their redemption and who make up for the

wrong they have done. For this reason redemption movies are inspiring. They teach us

that it's not too late to be a good human being. They put redemption in our hands and

give us hope.

- William L. Blizek