

A FEW GOOD DYKES

© NOT A TOUGH GUY PRODUCTIONS

Director's Statement

A FEW GOOD DYKES is an unconventional documentary about the Dyke Uniform Corps, a highly selective organization of women united by their common fetish in uniforms and dedicated to the principles of honor, integrity, and discipline. Those who wish to join the Corps must meet a high standard of physical fitness, emotional stability and moral character. Once selected as a recruit, a woman must undergo a challenging yearlong process of initiation and successfully complete a basic training program.

By creating a militaristic, fraternity-like organization, members of the Dyke Uniform Corps (D.U.C.) create a “brotherhood” otherwise not available to women in our society. Members of the Corps express alternative gender identities that often go unexpressed in the gay and lesbian world, let alone mainstream society, and create a safe space to explore taboo desires and lifestyle choices that are not “politically correct.”

Being a part of the D.U.C. is not without its complications and profound troubles. This fetish and this longing to occupy male space emerges within a particular culture that equates power with masculinity, infuses women with unrealistic ideas about the perfect, beautiful body, and subtly but surely romanticizes the fascist nature of extreme belonging. Yet to pathologize these fantasies is both reductive and counter-productive. As this documentary illustrates, it can be an empowering act to indulge one's desires. Participation in the Dyke Uniform Corps allows women to occupy a space otherwise not available to them: a space of “female masculinity” that is difficult if not impossible to express from within the bounds of a dualistic gender society.

Although the women of the Dyke Uniform Corps romanticize the gallantry of the military and its ability to force people to extend themselves, to turn “boys into men,” it is not my intention as a filmmaker to support the military-industrial-complex and all of its trappings. Rather, I intend to show how one can come to terms with one's desires, regardless of one's political inclinations, and turn what may be shameful into what can bring great pleasure.

The military is very seductive, and its million dollar ad campaign with glossy images of sharp dressed men saluting in formation, driving tanks, impressing friends and family, even fighting off dragons (!), exploits its ability to appeal to those who wish to prove themselves, be a part of something, and earn respect. The women of the D.U.C. aren't dummies. They know full well that the military is about killing. By creating a para-military fetish organization that's not about “playing war games” as Corporal MJ puts it, they appropriate the military's underlying homoeroticism and its cult of masculinity, and use that to create a new space for female masculinity and above all, fun. Although the members of the D.U.C. do not articulate a well researched critique of the military-industrial-complex, their willingness and enthusiasm to explore the infusion of militarism with sexuality and gender expression is in itself a subversive act.