

Short Film Analysis

"24 Days in Brooks" is a compelling documentary that delves into the heart of Brooks, Alberta, a quintessential Canadian prairie town. What attracted me to this film is that it tells about a topic of ever-lasting interest, like labor strife, and it also tells about the personal transformation of a community that confronts a quick change in reality. With all its history, shaped by family, church, and work experiences among the alienated population, Brooks became a melting pot of complex questions such as immigration, labor rights, and community identity (Canada, 2007).

The film consolidates its narrative on the strike between the management and the workforce of Lakeside Packers, which paves the way for the analysis of larger social change in the background. It is not only a work-related conflict but a major mini-outlook of the world's job conditions, which is a synthesis of need and human desire for dignity and good treatment. With the arrival of many immigrants in Brooks occupation by residents of other nations attracting workers and others at the Lakeside Packers, the community faces an environment of rapid change for the first time. Residents from many other places who have their hardships and are seeking better lives in Canada are transformed into the citizens of the town of Brooks not only by bringing their dreams and challenges to test the residents of Brooks (Foster, 2016).

This story holds not only my heart but many others as well for several reasons. Firstly, it draws attention to the fact that largely immigration moves into the regions experiencing demographic downfall and that it is the solution for economic revival. The cases of such immigrants, who were mostly victims of the difficulties of their immigrant journey, lasting through the hardships and ultimately changing the society of Canada for the better, are the greatest examples of this. The documentary also enlightens viewers about real-life labor disputes in a highly globalized economy, where the workers sometimes find difficulties matching their powers

with multinational corporations as they look for fair labor practices and better working environments (Stevens, 2022).

The labor unrest in Brooks also serves as a poignant reminder of the importance of community solidarity and the ongoing struggle for workers' rights. The documentary captures the tension, hope, and resilience of a community grappling with change, making it a powerful narrative that resonates with audiences far beyond the borders of Brooks. It is a testament to the strength of diversity and the common ground that can be forged in pursuing justice and mutual respect (Canada, 2007).

My choice to delve into "24 Days in Brooks" was driven by a fascination with the intersection of labor, immigration, and community dynamics, particularly in a setting as emblematic of change as Brooks, Alberta. Through its poignant narratives and stark realities, the film presents a deeply human story of struggle, adaptation, and resilience, compelling me to reflect on broader societal issues. The intent behind "24 Days in Brooks" is multifaceted, aiming to shed light on the labor unrest at Lakeside Packers, the influx of immigrants into a traditionally homogenous community, and the ensuing challenges and transformations (Canada, 2007).

The main storyline revolves around the clash between Lakeside Packers and the unionized workers, set against a community grappling with rapid demographic and cultural changes. A quote that resonates deeply with me is from a worker who said, "When I come from Africa, I come here for a better life. I do not come here for war. I run for war to come in a better life in Canada." This statement encapsulates the aspirations and hardships of the immigrants who find themselves in Brooks, seeking stability and prosperity yet confronting new forms of adversity. It underscores the universal search for safety, dignity, and a better future, themes at the heart of the documentary (Canada, 2007).

The documentary's exploration of the labor dispute, with phrases like "the United Food and Commercial Workers Union Local 401 faces an uphill battle against lakeside Packers and its giant parent company Tyson Foods," highlights the David vs. Goliath nature of labor struggles in the global economy (Canada, 2007). This narrative thread illuminates the specific challenges faced by the workers in Brooks and reflects wider issues of labor rights, corporate accountability, and the struggle for fair working conditions. My reflection on the film is characterized by a deep empathy for the individuals who share their stories and a recognition of the complex layers of economic, social, and cultural dynamics that define Brooks (Canada, 2007).

The documentary's detailed portrayal of personal experiences against broader societal shifts provokes a consideration of how labor, immigration, and community identity intersect and evolve. "24 Days in Brooks" is a story of a work conflict and a cosmos of the complexity involved in globalization, migration, and cultural integration. Understanding, empathizing, and carrying out actions craving to resolve the societal issues highlighted in the movie, e.g., poverty, urbanization, gender/race discrimination, etc., is an effective strategy that can eradicate the complexity of society from the roots as shown in the movie (Sukmawati, 2022).

The film "24 Days in Brooks" shows these three things: the labor rights problem, immigration, and community change. This sense-oriented documentary is very important for three primary reasons, most notably for showing the intricacies of social integration challenges, the challenges of immigrant workers, and their quest for dignity and fairness in the labor market. One of those factors that need our attention is a keen portrayal of issues new immigrants confront, as seen in their narrations. "The worker's quote, "I come here for a better life, not for war," emphasizes the basic human nature, which is the underlying human desire for peace, stability, and a better life that made most migrants run away from their home countries." This statement refers to the issue

of finding shelter and happiness, which is evidence of the usefulness of this documentary towards an intellectual understanding of immigration as a factor that influences the sustainability of the economy and society (Canada, 2007).

The film's focus on a strike in Lakeside paintworks, where workers organized a strike to support their rights, combined with a desperate struggle against the endless power of big corporations, will be of great interest to audiences. The union's struggle for equal terms of employment described the outcomes of the advocacy and collective bargaining in realizing social justice in places very powerfully. The significance of this issue is more and more salient in Economic Development Strategies (EDS) and social justice as it illustrates how crucial trade unions are in defending workers' interests, promoting better working standards, and guaranteeing that the positive effects of an economic expansion reach wider social groups (Canada, 2007).

Furthermore, the development of Brooks as a melting pot society and its cultural diversity gives the film a concrete undertone of society's integration challenges and diverse characters. The saying, "You will not have to go away from Brooks to see the world," brings home the reality of a modern world where globalization and immigration are fast-changing the environment. Such kind of transformation, though, might raise concerns over social cohesion, identity, and mutual comprehension; however, this documentary serves as a vehicle for debates on such burning issues as multiculturalism, planning of the urban communities, and policy-making, including decisions on social safety nets. From an EDS stance, the film highlights that diversity acceptance and creating inclusive environments are critical to supporting immigrants and their needs. It is a discourse that proves how immigrants fill labour gaps and complement local economies, hence giving reasons for policies that center on immigrants' rights, integration, and wellness (Canada, 2007).

In all, "24 Days in Brooks" is a highly enriching story that acts as a compelling examination of the role of social justice, employees' rights, and the benefit of diversity and non-discrimination. These themes are dealt with in this investigation. The fact suggests the significance of economics, social and human justice, and the EDS balance, which should include the human element in economic development. This documentary not only produces rationality on the existing situation about labor rights and immigration but also acts as a motivator to make the future more correct, fair, and inclusive.



References

- Canada, N. F. B. of. (2007). 24 Days in Brooks. Wwww.nfb.ca.
https://www.nfb.ca/film/24_days_in_brooks/
- Foster, J. (2016). Solidarity on the TransCanada: The Role of Immigrant Activism and Innovative Union Tactics in the 2005 Lakeside Packers Strike. *Labour Le Travail*, 78. Retrieved from
<https://www.lltjournal.ca/index.php/llt/article/view/5842>
- Stevens, A. (2022). Foreign workers in the West: The regulation of migrant "Unfreedom" in Saskatchewan. *Canadian Review of Sociology/Revue Canadienne de Sociologie*, 59(S1), 118–133. <https://doi.org/10.1111/cars.12395>
- Sukmawati, N. L. A. (2022). Unraveling the Cinematic Tapestry of Immigration: A Socio-Cultural Dissection of Indonesian Migrant Labor in Rawuh (2019). *ROLLING*, 5(2), 156.
<https://doi.org/10.19184/rolling.v5i2.38718>



KINZA ASHRAF
DISSERTATION HELP