

and continued to plague her even after her departure from the service to start a dog-care business. Lt. Col. Matt Diaz, who was with the Judge Advocate's Office of the Navy, is in an even worse situation. Diaz, who revealed the list of Guantanamo detainees to a defense attorney, was drummed out of the military and now faces prosecution himself. Wallner tells the trio's stories through extensive interviews, contemporary footage, and an array of archival materials, skillfully conveying the human cost of Guantanamo from a variety of perspectives. Recommended. Aud: C, P. (F. Switek)

I Won't Go ★★1/2

(2010) 28 min. DVD: \$139. Terra Nova Films. PPR.

In this provocative and disturbing documentary short, British filmmaker Georgia Hurcombe turns her camera on an important influence during her childhood: Oli Truss, a former headmistress who tutored Hurcombe many years earlier. Returning to Oli's home, Hurcombe finds the 90-year-old living in a dilapidated, rat- and insect-infested residence with only a dog, cat, and Shetland pony as company. Oli's infirmities prevent her from reaching her house's second level, so she maneuvers her walker through piles of dust-covered objects before finding a free space in her kitchen where she can sit and boil water for tea. Oli appears to be completely oblivious to the squalor and wreckage surrounding her, insisting that she is perfectly happy living this way—a claim confirmed by a home care worker (who empties the magsots from the long-washed kitchen bowls), and by Oli's neighbors, who speak with cautious respect about her sense of independence without mentioning the filth and muck of the home. While the circumstances that ultimately led to Oli's reclusive lifestyle are detailed—her husband's significant cash windfall from a betting pool created a permanent rift in their once-happy marriage, causing her to gradually retreat from the world—Hurcombe never directly asks Oli or her neighbors about the obvious health issues created by her unhygienic existence. But when Oli assertively states that she was born in the house and will die there (she passed away shortly after filming ended), one can understand how her strong spirit—reflected in the film's title—overshadowed the disaster surrounding her. A thought-provoking profile, this is highly recommended. Aud: C, P. (P. Hall)

In My Lifetime ★★1/2

(2011) 109 min. DVD: \$89. High Schools & Public Libraries; \$250. Colleges & Universities. Whistling Communications (dist. by The Video Project). PPR. *Closed captioned.*

With the end of the Cold War, the dread of global nuclear war and atomic Armageddon seems to have receded. Filmmaker Robert E. Frye (a former ABC News executive) aims to

Although many documentaries about Israel emphasize strife with neighbors and internal divisions, filmmaker Wayne Kopping's *Israel Inside* is a more upbeat portrait, narrated by Tal Ben-Shahar, an Israeli-born scholar raised in the U.S. As a Harvard professor, Ben-Shahar taught what was once the university's most popular course, "Positive Psychology: The Science of Happiness." Returning to his homeland, Ben-Shahar puts his teachings into practice, presenting here a portrait of

Israel Inside ★★

(2011) 55 min. DVD: \$24.95. Passion River (avail. from most distributors).

restore a sense of danger and urgency in this insightful documentary. Now that the U.S. and Russia (both still leading the planet in nuclear arsenals) need to choose between updating or scrapping an aging intercontinental ballistic missile supply, the complete disposal of the devastating warheads is a true option. Frye recounts the history of nuclear war, beginning with the Hiroshima/Nagasaki bombings (the film includes interviews with U.S. still-living survivors), moving on to the U.S.-U.S.R. stare-down during the Cuban Missile Crisis, and winding up with the current situation in which loose-cannon nations such as Pakistan and North Korea aspire to join the growing "nuclear club." The bombshell revelation here is that even Reagan administration top-level "hawks" are now in favor of disarmament. Meanwhile, peace activists continue to protest and nuclear-missile silos potent reminder of our technological rather than environmental capacity for self-destruction, this is highly recommended. Aud: C, P. (C. Cassidy)

The Nine Muses ★★

(2010) 2 discs. 94 min. DVD: \$34.98. Iconus Films Home Video (avail. from most distributors).

Israel as a caring, progressive society and center of technological innovation. Ben-Shahar illustrates what he terms six "actualizers"—elements that explain the nation's vibrancy—such as "family" (the sense that the populace acts like a mutually supportive community), which is linked to a strong inclination to volunteerism and "tikkun olam" (i.e., a duty to better the world). Ben-Shahar also looks at the society's emphasis on education, the Jewish drive to turn adversity to advantage, and "chutzpah"—a simple unwillingness to take no for an answer. The combination of these factors, he argues, explains why Israel is such a bustling community of achievers and innovators. Featuring many interviews and examples of entrepreneurial spirit and scientific accomplishment, *Israel Inside* presents an antidote to the darker depictions of many documentaries, although one could say that it is as equally and relentlessly one-sided. DVD extras include bonus interviews. Recommended, overall. Aud: C, P. (F. Switek)



Semper Fi: Always Faithful ★★

(2011) 76 min. DVD: \$29.99. Passion River (avail. from most distributors) (Oct. 9). ISBN: 1-93777-209-8.

Filmmakers Rachel Libert and Tony Hardmon's *Semper Fi* follows the dogged quest of U.S. Marine Master Sergeant Jerry Ensminger, who—following the death of his nine-year-old daughter from a rare type of leukemia—discovered cancer clusters among other personnel who were also stationed at Camp Lejeune, NC. It turned out that since 1958, dangerous chemical solvents used on the base—mostly cleaning solutions—had been dumped into the water supply, poisoning generations of soldiers and their families. Although an independent inspector warned the brass about the toxins in the early 1980s, the Corps did nothing to alert potential victims—or assist with their healthcare while the ongoing inquest/stonewall moved agonizingly slow to officially recognize the deadly poisons as carcinogens. America's military, the documentary claims, is the nation's most prolific and pernicious polluter—adding that tumors, birth defects, and malignancies are epidemic at bases throughout the country. In addition to Ensminger we meet other Marines—one a pioneering woman—fighting their own battles, often in hospital wards. The sad 9/11-era irony of these troops being so utterly betrayed by their own hierarchy is self-evident and not belabored here. There is no right-wing-vs.-left-wing stance or scorekeeping, just a powerful story about a cover-up and one man's mission to reveal the truth. Recommended. [Note: this is also available with public performance rights for \$295 from Bullfrog Films, www.bullfrogfilms.com.] Aud: C, P. (C. Cassidy)