

SUNDANCE INSTITUTE
Application for Documentary Fund
Project Treatment/Synopsis in English

“The War Within”
by Nadia Voukitchevitch

This documentary’s primary focus will be on the increase in suicide rates of soldiers returning from Iraq and what society and the government are doing to help them overcome severe PTSD and depression they are faced with everyday.

The documentary will explore the lives of at least 3 women and 3 men who have served in Iraq in the past few years and who have and continue to experience severe depression and PTSD. It will also attempt to get an accurate list of how many soldiers have committed suicide in the past 4 years and show how that number has been increasing as the War in Iraq continues. I will also interview at least three of the family members of soldiers who have recently committed suicide, their names still to be confirmed pending family permission. Furthermore, I intend to interview the soldiers who now refuse to go on a 3rd or even 2nd tour because of the PTSD that they are suffering from and also the absurdity in human loss that they have already witnessed for many months and years. The documentary will be an hour to 90 minutes long, and will examine the issues of suicide increase of soldiers, the lack of mental health resources, and explain what the government is doing to help and how we got to this point.

The sequence shall be as follows:

- The opening montage should be edited in a way that we strike a sharp difference between the life of our youth here before being shipped out to Iraq, at their homes, with their families even show some of their training exercises. And then cut-to footage from the Invasion of Iraq that we never see of TV in the U.S perhaps in Europe or other parts of the world, but not on CBS or CNN. This would be filmed along side a fellow soldier whose buddy gets shoot or blown-up standing right next to him and he witnesses the instant death and is also responsible for picking-up all this body parts.
- Introduce the six soldiers I plan on interviewing and focusing on and that we hope to save from this War.
- Interview the Director of the Department of Veteran Affairs as well as the mental health care professionals that deal with the soldiers on a daily basis.
- Talk to the families and why their son/daughter chose to serve their country and defend its freedom, talk about what they are feeling now and what they do to stay alive and keep themselves from doing something as drastic as their child did out of desperation or lack of understanding or simply just to end the war within. Mainly focus on what they believe leads their children often a parent of one or two children of their own to end their lives, and leave also a husband and wife behind. Find-out what tools the spouses are expected to use in attempting to deal with the consequences of PTSD. The burden that the government has placed on them by limiting the VA’s resources when the spouses possess no professional qualifications to help them.
- I will also focus on the recruiting process and what areas are primarily targeted in the U.S. and analyze the contract that these young men and women sign hoping for a better future to fulfill a dream and truly see –witness what they are left with at the end.

