

ADVERTISEMENT

REVIEW   MOVIES   ENTERTAINMENT

# Deeply-felt film essay 'In the Intense Now' observes the fire of revolution

By ROBERT ABELE  
APR 19, 2018 | 11:45 AM



TOPICS

START TRIAL  
10 FREE weeks

LOG IN

FREE TRIAL | TRY 10 FREE WEEKS!



Archival footage from the documentary "In the Intense Now." (CineMemoire)



A rich, immersive contemplation of the emotional battery life of revolutions, Brazilian filmmaker João Moreira Salles' remarkable, deeply felt essay film "In the Intense Now" examines 1968's turbulence in four countries

FREE TRIAL

TRY 10 FREE WEEKS!  
Hurry, offer ends 5/1

START TRIAL

protests in France, the Soviet invasion following Czechoslovakia's Prague Spring, and his own childhood split between France and an increasingly militarized Brazil. (Salles' brother is filmmaker Walter Salles.)



ADVERTISEMENT

His interest is twofold: what filmmakers chose to record and what the images show, sometimes unwittingly. Psychologically, Salles, who narrates in the hushed tones of a mournful detective, finds something inexorably meaningful and powerfully human in the spark and ecstatic burn of revolutionary fervor — the dispossessed heard, the powerful knocked back — even as countermeasures ensure the reactive pullback toward ordinary, unheroic existence.



The combination of archival bounty with Salles' touching analysis has a hypnotic effect, serving up the past plus reflection, garnished with a resonant melancholy about the ebb and flow of uprisings. Through it all, Salles shows abiding respect for these forgotten and anonymous chroniclers of the momentous, whether captured in ecstasy, obliviousness, fear or wounded resignation. It brought to mind Stephen Sondheim's exquisite lyrics from "Someone In a Tree" about witnessing history: "I'm a fragment of the day/If I weren't who's to say/Things would happen here the way/That they happened here?"



PAID POST

What's This?



### Descubra a Europa com a SWISS.

A message from Swiss Airlines

Com a SWISS para Zurique e mais de 70 destinos na Europa.

[SEE MORE](#)

-----

**FREE TRIAL**

**TRY 10 FREE WEEKS!**  
Hurry, offer ends 5/1

**START TRIAL**

In Portuguese, French and Czech with English subtitles

Not rated

**Running time:** 2 hours, 7 minutes



**Playing:** Laemmle Music Hall, Beverly Hills



[See the most-read stories in Entertainment this hour »](#)

[calendar@latimes.com](mailto:calendar@latimes.com)



Indie Focus Newsletter

Weekly

Movie news, screening invitations and reviews from the world of independent film and beyond.

ENTER YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS

>

ADVERTISEMENT

COMMENTS (1)

LATEST NEWS

MOVIES

The Moviegoer, April 22-28

20m

MOVIES

In May 1968, the Cannes Film Festival ground to a halt. Fifty years later, it's still sparking controversy

FREE TRIAL

TRY 10 FREE WEEKS!  
Hurry, offer ends 5/1

START TRIAL

20m

REVIEW

2018 Honda Gold Wing is lighter, sportier, more powerful and better looking

20m

MUSIC

When pop music got big: 1968 and the birth of arena rock

20m

LATEST MOVIES

MOVIES

The Moviegoer, April 22-28

20m



MOVIES

In May 1968, the Cannes Film Festival ground to a halt. Fifty years later, it's still sparking controversy

20m



MOVIES

Rage and wonder in 1968: The year war came through the TV and I felt pieces of childhood ending

20m



MOVIES

In 1968, moviegoers had a lot more choices before blockbuster fever took over

20m



MOVIES

'Western' and other movie picks for April 20

APR 19, 2018



ADVERTISEMENT

Sign up for our newsletters  
Subscribe for unlimited  
access

- About us
- Contact us
- Privacy policy
- Terms
- Site map
- E-Newspaper

- Corrections
- Archives
- Classifieds
- Find a job
- Shop
- Advertising



Copyright © 2018, Los Angeles Times

FREE TRIAL

TRY 10 FREE WEEKS!

Hurry, offer ends 5/1

START TRIAL