Whose Is This Song? Nationalism and Identity through the lens of Adela Peeva
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Eleni Elefterias-Kostakidis

Abstract

Whose is this Song is a palimpsest of overlapping cultural layers that explore the imagined cultural and ethnic stereotypes of the Balkan community through this well-known shared tune. It is a documentary film about this hybrid folk tune that is common throughout the Balkan region, but which is the cause of much dissension and the incitement for the events portrayed in the film. Many have commented on, or tried to trace the archetype of, the song ‘On the road to Uskiindar’ (Turkish version) or Alto Ενευ TOYCO / From a foreign land (Greek version). Adela Peeva is on a quest for the truth. As she says in the film, she is on a quest for “the discovery and communication of truth.”2 Though an interesting topic in itself, this paper is more concerned with the “documentary voice”2 created by the director through the scenery and the subjects she chooses to interview. How she uses her camera lens, and its synchronous focus on the background, or backdrop, not only adds to the mystery of the film, but more importantly to

the greater issue of cultural similarity and perceived diversity: nationalism and identity within the Balkans.

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Whose Is This Song? launch preview watch a preview. by Adela Peeva color, 70 min, 2003 (50 min version also available) Bulgarian, Turkish, Greek, Albanian.

In addition to this, “Whose is this song” is a film about a song and the transformations it underwent on its travels along the roads of the Balkans: in the different Mar 19, 2009 Whose Is this Song. PREVIEW. docued. SubscribeSubscribedUnsubscribe 7,5927K. Adela Peeva was born in Razgrad. She graduated film and TV directing at the Academy of Theater, Film, Radio and Television in Belgrade in 1970. She worked as a director for television programs in the former Yugoslavia. After returning to Bulgaria, she was engaged with projects at Documentary Film Studio „Vreme” as a director and made over 50 films. „Mothers” (1981) was awarded with the “Silver Rhyton” prize. „Whose is this song?” was presented in the programs of 50 international film festivals, including „Tribeca” in the USA and IDFA in Holland, honored with 17 national and international awards. Her next film „Divorce Albanian Style” (2007) was also a great success, with over 30 festival screenings at home and abroad and honored with 12 awards. Nationalism and Identity through the lens of Adela Peeva Eleni Elefterias-Kostakidis (USYD) I. Through the Lens; a search for truth "The unexamined life is not worth living" Socrates Whose is this song is a palimpsest of overlapping cultural layers that explore the imagined cultural and ethnic stereotypes of the Balkan community through this well-known shared tune. It is a documentary film about this hybrid folk tune that is common throughout the Balkan region, but which is the cause of much dissension and the incitement for the events portrayed in the film. Many have commented on, or tried to