AT NIGHT I FLY

139 word

In At Night I Fly: Images from New Folsom, men at one of California's most maximum security prisons let us see their world. This world is less about dangerous drama and more, as one of them describes, "about isolation. About closure of both the mind and the heart. And the spirit." This intimate documentary shows prisoners, most serving a life sentence, who refuse such closure and instead work to uncover and express themselves. Their primary tool is making art and the film takes us to New Folsom's Arts in Corrections' room, to prison poetry readings, gospel choirs, blues guitar on the yard, and to many more scenes of creation. At Night I Fly shows the artistic and human journey these men take, as well as the need that fuels it, and the beauty and pain encountered along the way.

AT NIGHT I FLY: CREATING IN DARKNESS
AT NIGHT I FLY: BEAUTY DESPITE CELL BARS

We are inside New Folsom, a maximum security prison in California, and the prisoners we watch seem alien, odd – certainly different from us. After all, some have robbed, raped, even murdered. And most will never be free. Their world, as it unfolds before us, seems volatile, brutal, and apparently lacking all hope.

But through the darkness appear cracks of light. We hear gospel and hip hop, poems, and the blues. We listen to laughter. We see quiet moments and energetic conversation. As the men dare to dig deep, wake up, reach out, and create, we – along with the prisoners themselves – open to the unexpected: love, compassion, brotherhood, and great insight.

This film that seems at first to be a prison documentary becomes, by its end, a profound exploration of what it is to be human. Our own hearts and souls grow larger as we learn from the men who we watch.

AT NIGHT I FLY is directed by Michel Wenzer and produced by Tobias Jansson for the renowned documentary maker Story AB. The cast is mostly men who are life-term prisoners.

The film has been selected for Special Jury Award at the Sheffield Doc fest where it will have its market premiere.