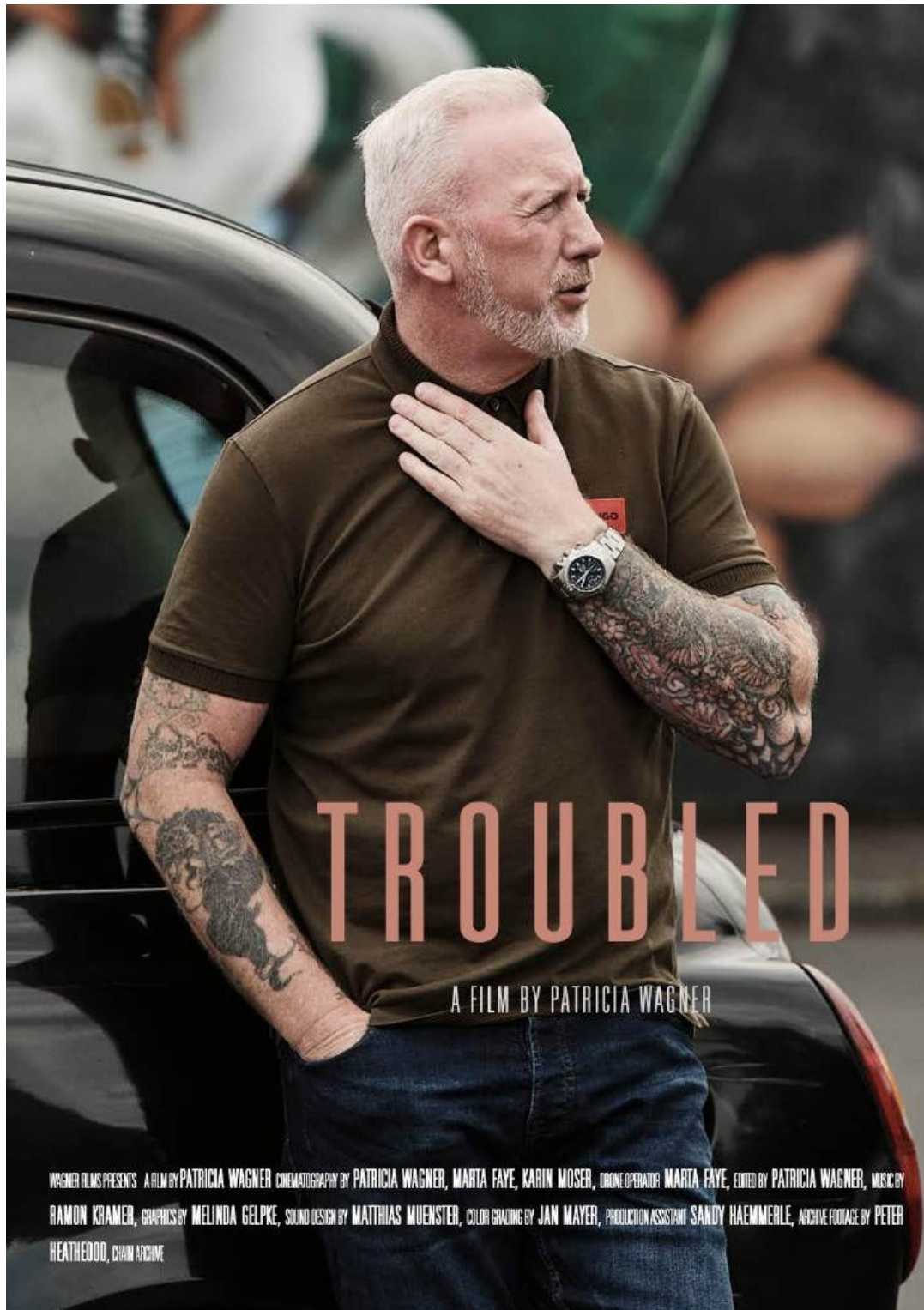


# TROUBLED – Study Guide

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# 1. Film Overview

**Title:** TROUBLED

**Director:** Patricia Wagner

**Running Time:** 21 mins

**Language:** English

**Country of Production:** Switzerland

## Synopsis:

*TROUBLED explores the lasting impact of the conflict in Northern Ireland on people from three different generations. Without the use of a narrator, the film offers an intimate portrait of a former paramilitary reflecting on guilt, a survivor paralysed in a sectarian shooting and a young woman searching for identity in a post-conflict society. Their stories reveal how trauma is silently carried forward long after the 'Troubles' officially ended, shaping the lives, relationships and community identities of the people in Northern Ireland today.*

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## 2. Learning Objectives

After watching this documentary, students should be able to:

- Analyse the concept of **intergenerational trauma** within the context of political conflict.
  - Critically reflect on how **memory and identity** are shaped by historical violence.
  - Discuss the **social, psychological, and cultural impacts** of the Troubles in Northern Ireland on the current generation.
  - Explore the **ethics and aesthetics** of documentary filmmaking without the use of a narrator.
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## 3. Key Themes

- Intergenerational Trauma
  - Memory and Identity
  - Conflict and Post-Conflict Societies
  - Justice, Guilt and Resilience
  - Observational Storytelling
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## 4. Discussion Questions

1. How does *TROUBLED* portray the silent persistence of trauma across generations?
2. What effect does the absence of a narrator have on your understanding of the film's stories?
3. In what way do the protagonists represent different experiences and identities in post-conflict Northern Ireland?

4. How does the film challenge stereotypes or assumptions about victims and perpetrators of the violence during the Troubles?
  5. What role does guilt play in the reconstruction of identity in the aftermath of political violence?
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## 5. Activities

### ✓ Reflective Writing:

Write a one-page reflection on which character's story resonated most with you and why.

### ✓ Research Task:

Investigate the Good Friday Agreement (1998) and discuss its significance in relation to the film's portrayal of post-conflict society.

### ✓ Creative Response:

Create a short visual piece (photo essay, collage, or digital artwork) exploring the theme of "invisible scars" in post-conflict societies.

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## 6. Further Reading & Resources

- Patrick Radden Keefe, *Say Nothing: A True Story of Murder and Memory in Northern Ireland*. Doubleday 2019
  - CAIN Web Service (Conflict Archive on the Internet): <https://cain.ulster.ac.uk>
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## 7. About the Director

**Patricia Wagner** is a multi-award-winning documentary filmmaker and founder of Wagner Films, an independent production company based in Switzerland and Ireland. For most of her 35-year career in the film industry, her focus has been on stories of injustice, marginalisation and resilience, and on giving a voice to people and communities fighting for dignity and human rights.

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### Contact

For more information or educational bookings:

 [www.wagnerfilms.com](http://www.wagnerfilms.com)