The Cleaners

By Moritz Riesewieck and Hans Block

SYNOPSIS:
Explore the shadowy underworld of the Internet where questionable content is removed - violence, pornography and political content.

While the policies on permissible content are written in Silicon Valley, the global headquarter for content moderation is in the city of Manila in the Philippines. Tens of thousands of young people are employed here as “digital scavengers,” moderating thousands upon thousands of troubling images and videos during the course of a ten-hour shift.

The Cleaners delves into the lives of five of these content moderators, uncovering the complexities and nuances of their often-traumatic working lives. In a parallel struggle, we meet people around the globe whose lives are dramatically affected by online censorship.

Evolving from a shared social vision of a global village to a web of fake news and radicalization, the film charts the rise and fall of social media’s utopian ideology. – from Gebrueder Beetz films – press kit

“You'll learn more about Facebook's devastating relationship to the Myanmar genocide of the Rohingya Muslims in the 88 minutes of this incredibly timely German documentary than you will from four hours of Apple News bits, bites and bobs.” CJ Johnson, ABC News, Australia

AWARDS

• Sundance Film Festival
  Grand Jury Prize, World Cinema Documentary (Nominee)

• German Director’s Award METROPOLIS 2018
  Best Director - Documentary

• International Film Festival and Forum on Human Rights
  Gilda Vieira de Mello Award

• It’s All True - International Documentary Film Festival
  Honorable Mention

• PRIX EUROPA
  Best European TV Documentary of the Year

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In English