

# CITY OF STEEL

## Film Reviews



# UK Film Reviews

City of Steel is an old-school, heartfelt documentary from director Bruce Spiegel about the steel-working industry of his native Pittsburgh, and how the slow destruction of the union movement allowed its collapse.

Spiegel uses a mixture of archive and interview footage to cover the history of Pittsburgh's steelworks, and the men and women who risked life and limb to keep them running. The documentary covers the industry from its genesis in the region, through to the industrial boom and battles between the workers and huge corporate bosses, to the industry's collapse in the Reagan years.

Much like the industry it documents, there is a sense that they don't make documentaries like City of Steel anymore. Slower and more considered than many contemporary works, Bruce Spiegel uses a PBS-style approach to his story of steel – meticulously profiling the key figures and places who played a role in making Pittsburgh the heart of American industry – and those who pulled that heart out over many years. The interspersal of the city with his own life adds a personal touch, and the contributions from former workers and their families contribute immensely to the sense of pride built in the industry from those who ran it.

# Indie Movie Reviews

I thought the documentary was very informative and did a great job of telling the rise and fall story of the industry that effected so many lives over it's century plus year long run of cultural relevance.

However what really made the project special was the first hand workers and townspeople narrations of their experiences growing up in the communities that centered around the industry and even more so working in the mills themselves.

To hear the fondness in their recollections still for the work that the workers took so much pride in performing and the small town communities that where tied together through the factories really made this project unique.

So overall, I enjoyed City of Steel because of all the great stories and incredible imagery of an industrial age that seems unimaginable to have happened. And again, from watching City of Steel I feel like the missing pieces in my understanding of this story were put together and I was able to get something from that experience.