

## Document Citation

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**GIVE PEACE A CHANCE** A war-weary Afghan girl waits for medical attention.

*Jung (War) in the Land of the Mujaheddin*

Dirs. Alberto Vendemmia, Fabrizio Lazzaretti and Giuseppe Petitto.

2001. N/R. 114mins. In English, Italian and Dari, with subtitles.

Documentary.

It could be the premise of a fat, vaguely pretentious novel: A noble Italian doctor descends upon a war-ravaged third-world country and, defying both danger and sanity, attempts to build a hospital. Wading through carnage, this medical warrior smokes lots of cigarettes, forges an alliance with a similarly noble British nurse, and butts against centuries' worth of tradition and ritual.

But this is not a novel. This is a documentary set in Afghanistan, the same nation that's been harboring the

world's most famous terrorist. And those children without limbs and soldiers without eyes are the real thing, casualties of a civil war that has lasted more than two decades. Filmed in 1999 and 2000, when the Taliban still controlled Kabul with an iron fist and a bearded visage, *Jung* feels both intensely immediate and, in some ways, like yesterday's headlines—today, most of us can not only identify the *mujaheddin*, but can also pronounce the word. See it not for any current-events fix, then, but for the mountaintops in northern Afghanistan, the close-up of a Muslim man eating glass (an act of celebration), and the expression on that doctor's face as yet another bloody body is dragged into his ward. (Opens Fri; Cinema Village. See also "Land of the lost," page 89.)—Evan Wiener