

Cinema Italiano

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<http://www.cinemaitaliano.info/news/39818/seeyousound-3-il-liberation-day-dei-laibach.html>

Laibach is a reality and a provocation. A Slovenian band founded in the Eighties, given a number of (often antithetical) labels, tied (willingly or not) to Yugoslavia and its dissolution: what could this band have to convey to the globalised public of the 21st century? And what, in particular, could it have to convey to a North Korean public?

The question may seem absurd, but there are those who have asked it not only sceptically, but assertively: for who could be better suited than the militaresque Laibach to finding points of connection with a population constrained by military marches, popular parades, leader worship and totalitarian rigour?

This is the question that led to *Liberation Day*, a documentary that follows its director, Morten Traavik's, and his mad brainchild: staging a Laibach concert on the occasion of the celebration of North Korea's Liberation Day (from the Japanese invader) in 2015.

Yesterday, the audience at the opening of the third edition of Seeyousound, Turin's musically-themed film festival, received the gift of this unique and surprising trip to North Korea in the company of Laibach and their crew. Amid the most disparate comments

(editor's note: I must confess to a strong desire to give Ivan Novak a healthy shaking when he makes the point that all in all, the Korean people must live well, since they all seem happy and serene on the streets ...) and difficulties in navigating between freedom of expression (limited) and censure (recurring), the band's musical show is truly of the highest level.

But most of all, *Liberation Day* is the emotions it stirs up: plenty of irony in the juxtaposition of the editing (gigantic Korean parades and big rock concert crowds), an anxiety that sets its hooks in you (in this era of Trumpian post-truth) when you hear the band sing: "they will assimilate you", but also a glimmer of optimism in witnessing a successful attempt at communication between two vastly different worlds.