by Arthur Salm
Dilawar picked up the wrong fare.
On Dec. 5, 2002, the young Afghani taxi driver gave a ride to four men. Afghani forces stopped the car at a roadblock, detained Dilawar and his passengers and turned them over to the Americans, citing suspicious material they claim to have found in the trunk.
â€~TAXI TO THE DARK SIDE' was nominated for an Academy Award for Best Documentary Feature RATINGS
4 STARS - Excellent.
3 STARS - Worthy.
2 STARS - Mixed.
1 STAR - Poor.
0 - Forget It (a dog.) They were taken to a hellhole called Bagram prison. Dilawar, who U.S. command later determined was innocent of any crime or intent, was hooded, handcuffed, chained to the ceiling and beaten so severely that his legs would have had to have been amputated, had he lived.

Movie Review: 'Taxi to the Dark Side'



Then he works his way upstream, until:
"That's very vague. What does that mean?" - President George W. Bush, on Article III of the Geneva Conventions ("There shall be no outrages to human dignity").
The men who carried out the torture, who were instructed by military intelligence to "soften up" detainees for interrogation, to "break" them, tell us that they were not trained in these methods. As, indeed, no one should be, not least because, as appalled former FBI interrogator Jack Clooney explains, they don't work.
And certainly not least because, well, it's torture, by any reasonable interpretation of the hard and hard-to-look-at evidence the film presents.
And the rule of law? The Constitution?
"We have to work, though, sort of on the dark side," Vice President Cheney is shown explaining. "We've got to spend time in the shadows." And that's where this taxi has taken us. The fare, Gibney's film suggests, will be steep.
Director: Alex Gibney. Running time: 1 hour, 43 minutes. Rated R. 4 stars.
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