The the thin blue line, by errol morris

Art & Culture, Performing Arts



It is during the research on Doctor Death that Morris came across Adams who convinced him of his innocence.

Emotional Aspect: Investigations into the Adams case revealed that five of the witnesses in the case had committed perjury. This resulted in Adams being given a death sentence that was later overturned by the Supreme Court in 1980 and was commuted to life imprisonment by the then Governor of Texas.

Film Craft: The documentary was done by re-enacting scenes as they were told in the witnesses' statements. In making the documentary, Morris and his team recreated several versions of the shooting that Adams was convicted for. It does not, however, recreate the scene where David Harris shoots the officer. The final scene of the film is an audio recording in which Morris and Harris can be heard speaking in the background.

Comments: Although most convicted criminals are known to pledge their innocence, some of them are actually innocent of the crimes they were sentenced for. The Adams case is a clear illustration of cases where the innocent are prosecuted while the guilty roam free.

Question: Should expert witness opinions be used as the basis on which trials are made?

Confused: If the investigations led the police directly to Harris, why did they

accuse of Adams of the murder?

Wondering: How can a documentary uncover events in a case that the police could not?