

Lights. Camera. Action.

Remember watching the flick *Wag the Dog* back in 1997? Remember thinking how funny and way out it was? Remember the ending scene in which Dustin Hoffman's character is "heart-attacked" because he wished to go public with his Hollywood production of a war that never was?

The movie was billed as a satire.

It was not.

It was, however, a laugh at us, the little people, because this is exactly how we were propagandized into backing Gulf War I & II.

I'm not suggesting that director Barry Levinson or any of the cast knew what the real deal was. However, did author Larry Beinhart, who wrote the book *American Hero*, upon which the movie was based, know? Did the studio owners know? Did the producers know?

Somebody did.

The fakery involved in selling Gulf War I will be dealt with later. For now, let's take a look at the Jessica Lynch production.

It was reported that Lynch heroically resisted capture—emptying her gun as she fired at her attackers—then was mistreated, beaten and raped by her captors.

What we did see were teams of U.S. Army Rangers and Navy Seals busting into a hospital to rescue Lynch.

None of it was reality.

*The New York Times* reported:

"Lynch was injured by the crash of her vehicle, her weapon jammed before she could fire, the Iraqi doctors treated her kindly, and the hospital was already in friendly hands when her rescuers arrived:

*The London Times* reported:

"The rescue of Private Jessica Lynch, which inspired America during one of the most difficult periods of the war, was not the heroic Hollywood story told by the US military, but a staged operation that terrified patients and victimised the doctors who had struggled to save her life, according to Iraqi witnesses.

"Doctors at al-Nasiriyah general hospital said that the airborne assault had met no resistance and was carried out a day after all the Iraqi forces and Baath leadership had fled the city.

"Four doctors and two patients, one of whom was paralysed and on an intravenous drip, were bound and handcuffed as American soldiers rampaged through the wards, searching for departed members of the Saddam regime.

"An ambulance driver who tried to carry Private Lynch to the American forces close to the city was shot at by US troops the day before their mission. Far from winning hearts and minds, the US operation has angered and hurt doctors who risked their lives treating both Private Lynch and Iraqi victims of the war. 'What the Americans say is like the story of Sinbad the Sailor — it's a myth,' said Harith al-Houssona, who saved Private Lynch's life after she was brought to the hospital by Iraqi military intelligence."

The Toronto Star reported:

"All Hollywood could ever hope to have in a movie was there in this extraordinary feat of rescue—except, perhaps, the truth.

“So say three Nasiriya doctors, two nurses, one hospital administrator and local residents interviewed separately last week in a Toronto Star investigation.

“The medical team that cared for Lynch at the hospital formerly known as Saddam Hospital is only now beginning to appreciate how grand a myth was built around the four hours the U.S. raiding party spent with them early on April Fool's Day.

“And they are disappointed.

“For Dr. Harith Houssona, 24, who came to consider Lynch a friend after nurturing her through the worst of her injuries, the ironies are almost beyond tabulation.

“‘The most important thing to know is that the Iraqi soldiers and commanders had left the hospital almost two days earlier,’ Houssona said. ‘The night they left, a few of the senior medical staff tried to give Jessica back. We carefully moved her out of intensive care and into an ambulance and began to drive to the Americans, who were just one kilometre away. But when the ambulance got within 300 metres, they began to shoot. There wasn't even a chance to tell them ‘We have Jessica. Take her.’

“One night later, the raid unfolded. Hassam Hamoud, 35, a waiter at Nasiriya's al-Diwan Restaurant, describes the preamble, when he was approached outside his home near the hospital by U.S. Special Forces troops accompanied by an Arabic translator from Qatar.

“‘They asked me if any troops were still in the hospital and I said “No, they're all gone.” Then they asked about Uday Hussein, and again, I said “No,” Hamoud said. ‘The translator seemed satisfied with my answers, but the soldiers were very nervous.’

“At midnight, the sound of helicopters circling the hospital's upper floors sent staff scurrying for the x-ray department—the only part of the hospital with no outside windows. The power was cut, followed by small explosions as the raiding teams blasted through locked doors.

“A few minutes later, they heard a man's voice shout, ‘Go! Go! Go!’ in English. Seconds later, the door burst open and a red laser light cut through the darkness, trained on the forehead of the chief resident.

“‘We were pretty frightened. There were about 40 medical staff together in the x-ray department,’ said Dr. Anmar Uday, 24. ‘Everyone expected the Americans to come that day because the city had fallen. But we didn't expect them to blast through the doors like a Hollywood movie.’

“Dr. Mudhafer Raazk, 27, observed dryly that two cameramen and a still photographer, also in uniform, accompanied the U.S. teams into the hospital. Maybe this was a movie after all.”

Finally, Lynch spoke for herself and told ABC's Diane Sawyer that the military's portrayal of her ordeal was a patriotic fable.

“The military used me as a way to symbolize all this stuff,” Lynch confessed. “Yeah, it's wrong.”

American soldiers are the best in the world, but they are being abused by an administration and corporate elite that profit financially from our intrigues into distant lands.

It's not about freeing any nation's people. It's not about making us safe.

Our troops fighting 3000 miles away doesn't do squat for us here.

Why send troops abroad to fight the supposed bad guys whose countrymen are allowed into this country in larger numbers than ever before?

It's our country. We make the rules. We can change the rules.

Why not close the gates for a time and root out the problem that is growing within this nation?

Why not? Because it makes sense.

And the American people can't get it through their heads that they are being propagandized by *nonsense*.

Hey, but as long as the nonsense is heard, seen, and read in the mainstream news, well, shoot, it's gotta be true.