



**Critical Acclaim For  
'WEB JUNKIE'**

By Shosh Shlam and Hilla Medalia

“The documentary *Web Junkie* highlights the tragic effects on teenagers who become hooked on video games, playing for dozens of hours at a time often without breaks to eat, sleep or even use the bathroom. Many come to view the real world as fake.”

—Jane E. Brody *The New York Times*

“[The filmmakers] probe the phenomenon of Chinese Internet addiction ‘reform’ centers, jarring viewers with an inside look . . . as well as shedding light on the mindset of these Internet ‘addicts.’”

—Duane Byrge, *The Hollywood Reporter*

“China has 400 of these camps already, and it’s probably a safe bet some parents and officials in many other places would be fine with this becoming the next big Chinese export.” 4 stars out of 5

—David Hinckley, *New York Daily News*

“We’re watching people . . . who are looking for some kind of human connection—both the kids for whom ‘reality is too fake’ and the parents who would like their children back. . . . Hilla Medalia and Shosh Shlam’s film has something of that Frederick Wiseman feel we approve of here.”

—Robert Lloyd, *Los Angeles Times*

“A bizarre and entertaining documentary about China’s attempts to reprogram its Internet-addicted youth.”

—Dennis Harvey, *Variety*

“The wonderful documentary *Web Junkie* is a disturbing look at the lives of patients living in Daxing boot camp. . . .it’s an eye-opening film.”

—Brian Lehrer, WNYC “The Brian Lehrer Show”

“Fascinating and often darkly funny.”

—Farran Smith Nehme, *The New York Post*

“The subject of Chinese internet rehabilitation camps isn’t new, but *Web Junkie* is the first of its kind to bring an insider documentarian angle to it. . . . There are also some surprisingly tense moments.”

—Clinton Nguyen, VICE: Motherboard

“*Web Junkie* offers a troubling glimpse into anxieties that are hardly China’s alone.”

—A.O. Scott, *The New York Times*

“The spellbinding documentary takes us inside the doors of the Internet Addiction Treatment Center in Daxing—a bizarre hybrid of military barracks and mental hospital.”

—**Marlow Stern, *The Daily Beast***

“Watching *Web Junkie* is trip to a rather grim place, but like the best documentaries, it demonstrates the universal in human experience while demonstrating vast differences in cultures and systems. It also offers powerful commentary on the allure of video games.”

—**Kevin McDonough, *United Feature Syndicate***

“Bewildering and surreal. . . . The specificity of the documentary, staying within the walls of the boot camp for virtually the entire movie, is one of its biggest strengths since it is able to place you right alongside these kids.”

—**Drew Taylor, *Indiewire***

“The slow . . . unveiling of the boys’ stories is persuasive and chilling. Internet addiction is real.”

—**Katherine Vu, *The Village Voice***

“The filmmakers . . . gained extraordinary access.”

—**Dave Walker, *The Times-Picayune, New Orleans***

“*Web Junkie* could almost be viewed as absurd comedy, if it weren’t so grimly serious.”

—**Peter Howell, *The Toronto Star***

“The human stories in *Web Junkie* are instantly identifiable, stories of a world where everyone has been brought closer together and simultaneously kept apart.”

—**Andrew O’Hehir, *Salon***

“Full of remarkably candid moments.”

—**Brandon Harris, *Filmmaker***

“The film can’t help but invite comparison to the child-coddling excess of American culture, while capturing the opposite scenario in excruciating detail.”

—**Steve MacFarlane, *Slant Magazine***

“Jarring.”

—**Miriam Groner, *The Jewish Week***

“Since we’re all probably web junkies, this doc is pretty universal.”

—**Daniel Fienberg, *HitFix***

“*Web Junkie* highlights the potential ‘dark side of the internet’. . . by looking at kids who live their lives online.”

—**Jewish Telegraphic Agency**

“A story of generational divide, of 21st-century children disengaging with their 20th-century betters, and finding more freedom, excitement, and like-aged companionship online.”

—**Scott Tobias, *The Dissolve***

“Ensures moments of often brutal honesty.”

—**Simon Foster, *Screen-Space***

“It’s a raw, emotional look at internet addiction treatment. . . .the underlying story is one that all families can relate to.”

—**Mommy Factor blog**

“Dissecting the lives of several young men, *Web Junkie* packs so much into less than an hour—a new way of life, a new problem, and unorthodox solutions against the backdrop of a mystery of social guilt.”

—**Justin Stokes, *Nashville Arts Magazine***

“An eye-opening piece of filmmaking on one country’s approach to a growing issue.”

—**Vince Horiuchi, *The Salt Lake Tribune***