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IXIEME, DIARY OF A PRISONER

(SWITZERLAND)

A Louise Prods., Momentum Prod., Productions Les Herétiques, Television Suisse Romande production. (International sales: Louise, Nevey, Switzerland.) Produced by Heinz Dill. Co-producers, Pierre-Yves Borgeaud, Stéphane Blok, Irene Challand.

Directed, written by Pierre-Yves Borgeaud, Stéphane Blok. Camera (color: DigiBeta, PAL). Borgeaud; editor: Borgeaud; music: Blok; art director: Sabine Crausaz; costume designer: Pascale Hug. Reviewed at **Locarno Film Festival** (competing — video), Aug. 12, 2003. Original French title: *IXieme, journal d'un prisonnier*. French dialogue. Running time: 105 MIN.

With: Louis-Charles Finger, Céline Bolomey, Vincent Kueholl, Jean-Marc Morel, Penelope Pierson, Christine Brammeier, Tania Nerfin.

A mockumentary recording the final 200 days of a man under house arrest, "IXieme, Diary of a Prisoner" doesn't rep the most original concept for a film, but its execution

is thoughtful, its imagery striking. Pic, which was a co-winner of the top prize in Locarno's video competition, is most suited for fests specializing in digi-cinema.

Protagonist Eric Suger is confined at home, tagged electronically with a chip in his ankle for an unspecified crime. Almost entirely unseen, as he holds the camera himself, Suger receives visits from his

parole officer, various friends and (later) prostitutes as he sinks into a miasma of loneliness. Gradually, movie builds an oblique portrait of an atomized society, where people die unnoticed in neighboring apartments and everything but real friendship or love is available online. Dashes of wit include the appearance of the self-absorbed parole officer who wants to talk incessantly about his love life. Using menacing sound effects and mixing in psychedelic digital fx, pic builds a dreamy, paranoid atmosphere. Tech credits on the Lausanne-lensed production are fine, though running time could be trimmer.

— *Leslie Felperin*

