

Iraq in Fragments

Reviewed by [Lisa Schwarzbaum](#)



BEYOND REPAIR? An 11-year-old auto mechanic is one of the people director Longley brings into dramatic focus in his poetic *Iraq* doc

The fragments that James Longley handles with such grace and intelligence have disintegrated into irreparable shards since the filmmaker assembled his perceptive documentary **Iraq in Fragments** between 2002 and 2005. Working with *vérité* patience and no scripted narration, Longley looks and listens, with nonjudgmental sensitivity, as Sunni, Shi-ite, and Kurdish Iraqis explain their colliding, intractable, invaded worlds, and their rising frustrations. He lets people be people, not position-holders. The calm poetry of the cinematography offsets the mess of the politics to stunning effect.