Unreliable Evidence
75434 DVD
21 min IS 2002 Canadian Broadcasting Corp.
Seamus O'Regan It's one of the justice system's little se-
crets. Take a selective and sometimes deceptive mem-
ory, add flawed police procedures, and witnesses will iden-
tify the wrong person - but no one knows how often. Not
convinced? Well then, you be the eyewitness. This pro-
gram starts with a staged shooting - an experiment to
test the weakness of eyewitness testimony conducted by
Dr. Rod Lindsay who studies eyewitness memory. After
the "shooting", students are asked to identify the shooter.
Some remember nothing but the shock of the event; oth-
ers offer detailed descriptions, but it's hard to believe they
saw the same person. Lindsay states that best estimates
put the number of innocent people convicted based on
identification error in Canada at 40 to 300 individuals per
year. What role does standard police procedures have in
this alarming statistic? What can be done to reduce the
chance of mis-identification?
No Other Versions Available