

The Ordinary Bloke's Guide to the Film Festival

The film festival can be a daunting experience for the ordinary bloke. There are so many films that it's impossible to find out what's good and what's not. For a start, the whole idea of "good" is highly suspect. Films that ordinary blokes enjoy don't even make it onto the festival, and there are lots of films on the festival that are obviously nowhere near good in conventional terms. So we sent a couple of ordinary blokes and their babes to the movies to hear what they had to say.

SUPERSIZE ME

Reviewed by Bob Zurunkle

Now this is a film that everyone can enjoy, even if it is a bit of an anti-McDonald's propaganda rave. Morgan Spurlock is a funny guy and the film is very well made, except for the part where he catches out the door of his car, which just about made me do the same – I hate watching people vomit. And you probably shouldn't watch it on an empty stomach. I hadn't had a thing to eat all day and the sight of him eating all those burgers and fries sent me into a total Pavlov's dog reaction! My stomach was gurgling and the lady next to me was looking at me strangely.

It's amazing that McDonald's allowed Spurlock into their outlets to film his movie – surely they must have known that he was going to trash them? It goes to show that despite all the anti-American propaganda we hear these days, it is a free country after all. And it's also amazing that Mickey D's have already started changing their menus to include more healthy stuff like salads and yoghurt, even though they slipped up with the salad dressings – some of them have just as many calories as your average burger.

The movie gets a bit tedious towards the end, with all the facts and figures about why it's so wrong to eat fast food. Sure, we get the picture, and I for one am going to cut down my fast food intake to once or twice a week. Luckily at the Suncoast they have a wide range of food outlets, so afterwards we headed straight to the Halaal counter for a lamb schwarma – delicious. If this movie teaches us anything, it's that there's more to fast food than Mickey D's. Bon appetit!

TRIPLETS OF BELLVILLE

Reviewed by Anna Mae Schynne

I'm a bit of an animation freak myself but I must say that *Triplets of Bellville* is definitely not *DragonBall Z!* If you loved *Spirited Away*, you're not necessarily going to love this film. Firstly, there is hardly any dialogue, and what



there is in French, and there are no subtitles, so it's difficult to follow in places, although the story is actually quite simple. But apart from the language issue, it's actually a great movie, especially if you're a big fan of the *Tour De France*, which I'm not.

The first 15 minutes of the film are very funny, mainly because of the animation style, which is very different from what we're used to. The scene where the main character gets a massage using household implements like the vacuum cleaner and the lawnmower is hilarious. But the star of the show is definitely the overweight dog, running up and down the stairs to bark at the trains going past the window, his huge butt skidding around the landing.

I must say I dozed off a bit in the second half and when I woke up I couldn't really make out what had been going on. Definitely recommended for the animation fundi, but for the average bloke I'd say you're probably better off going to see *Shrek 2*.

GUMS AND NOSES

Reviewed by Balan Singh

Directed by young South African director Craig Freimond, *Gums and Noses* is pure satire with a nasal twitch. James is a guy who has always thought of himself as perfectly average, lacking in wit and taste and all that 'creative' stuff. But then he unwittingly lands a job in the creative department of an advertising company and has to deal with the pressures of coming up with 'award winning' creative ideas.

The poor guy knows he's about as creative as a depressed sloth, but then he stumbles upon the correlation between cocaine and creativity and whammo! he starts churning out the ideas quicker than McDonald's can churn out burgers and becomes the popular, cool and successful dude he's always wanted to be. Until things suddenly take a wicked twist for the worse. The movie is packed with big names from the South African film and television industry and is definitely going to reward you with a good, 'proudly South African' laugh.

FESTIVAL FOCUS

PICTURES BY
MONICA RORVIK AND
MPHO MOLOKO



Visiting filmmaker Michael Raeburn and Richard Green, producer of *The Wooden Camera*.



Mandle Ndimande, Dj Bionic and Joel Phiri.



Joel Phiri and Jeremy Nathan, executive producers of *Forgiveness*, with Partho Sen Gupta (middle), director of *Let the Wind Blow*.



Justin Strydom in action, AFDA acting workshop at the Stable Theatre.



Jafar Panahi, visiting director of *Crimson Gold*.



Kira Erwin and Kim Hawkins of Imagination Lab Workshop, Facilitators of a workshop at Ekhaya.

CREDITS

Reel Times is compiled and edited by Andy Mason.

Student writers: Genevieve Akal, Samora Chapman, Chris Mason

Fictional writers: Bob Zurunkle, Anna Mae Schynne, Balan Singh

Layout: Christa Naidoo, Artworks Communications (031) 303 6466.

Views expressed are those of the writers and are not necessarily held by the Centre for Creative Arts, the University of KwaZulu-Natal or Artworks Communications.

VOX POP

BLOKE VOX

CHRIS MASON intercepted two average-looking blokes, Russel Spark and 'Squibby' Hood of Glenwood, as they emerged looking a bit bewildered from the critically acclaimed *LAST LIFE OF THE UNIVERSE*, and subjected them to a quick Q&A.

CHRIS: Were you looking forward to this film? Why did you choose to see it? Did you enjoy it? Would you recommend it?

RUSSEL: Whoa! Easy, Tiger! One question at a time if you don't mind! Let me tell you, I was looking forward to this one – it got such a good review in *Nashen's Top Ten*. And I've always wanted to know what magic realism is. It sounded like it was going to be a fairytale so I didn't really mind missing the first ten minutes, but when we got in there were two teenage girls shouting at each other in what looked like a strippers' change room and it just got weirder from there. So much for the magic fairytale. After a hardcore first scene when a guy trying to commit suicide meets a girl that has just had her sister run over, these two spend several mystical days together. It's very bizarre, things happen for no apparent reason, but it's actually great. Really well filmed. There's a fairytale book about a lizard who becomes the last lizard in the world, and because of the title I kept waiting for everybody in the movie to disappear.

CHRIS: So what was your interpretation of the film's deeper message?

SQUIBBY: Well, I really smaaked it hey. I thought it was really like, deep. There were some things that happened and we were like, "whoaaa". And like it doesn't really matter if I got it or didn't get it hey, I reckon all the movie buffs will.

CHRIS: Thanks dudes.

RUSSEL & SQUIBBY: Later!

BABE VOX

GENEVIEVE AKAL pounced on Minky and Ida Orr as they emerged from *RIPLEY'S GAME*, and shot a few kweezies at them.

GEN: So what did you think of the movie?

MINKY: I really liked 'The Talented Mr. Ripley' so I thought that seeing the follow up would be interesting. (Unfortunately Matt Damon wasn't in this one though!!) And if we were really supposed to believe that it was thirty years later why would Matt Damon grow up to look like John Malkovich? Anyway, I rated the movie as 'good' on those little blue slips of paper that they give you. I could have given it an 'excellent' rating but I thought... "Hey, wait a minute...you enjoyed that movie, but it didn't really challenge you on a deep mental level". You know what I'm saying?... It had all the twists and turns in the plot, it was very well acted, especially Ripley, he was spooky, and I didn't really get bored, but it just didn't make me think about much, you know... aside from sort of "Wow, I wonder if this Ripley guy ever existed because he's a bit messed in the head!".

GEN: Okay... What else have you seen? Any animation?

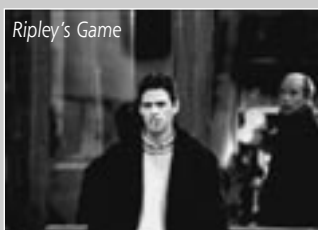
IDA: Actually ja, I saw *Tokyo Godfathers*.

GEN: Oh ja... What was that like?

IDA: Um... okay it's just about three homeless guys who find a baby and then spend the rest of the movie trying to solve the mystery of who it belongs to.

GEN: And what was the animation like?

IDA: I thought the animation was really good. It was weird because the background or the setting is so



realistic, so much so that it becomes almost too real...do you know what I mean?

GEN: (nods)

IDA: Ja, and the characters look more like typical animated characters... like...you know they're not real. But then, the weird part is that their facial expressions are so detailed, you believe in what they feel on an emotional level even though they are animated characters.

GEN: Wow. That's deep. How did it leave you emotionally, at the end of the film?

Minky: Well I was like happy and sad, y'know? I mean the whole thing was about homeless people so that was sad in itself but in the end everything turns out all right.

BLOKE & BABE VOX

CHRIS and **GEN** caught Ben Dover and Tay Kawak, his Taiwanese girlfriend, after they had just been to see the Korean fable-turned-horror film, *A TALE OF TWO SISTERS*.

CHRIS: So was the movie scary?

TAY: Very much. I got several frights!

BEN: Ja bru, I jumped a couple of times but I wasn't, like shitting in my pants or anything.

GEN: Was it a gore fest or a mindfuck?

BEN: It mainly screwed with my head 'cos I knew that something strange had happened to the two sisters but I didn't know what.

GEN: What do you mean?

BEN: Well, like the whole way through Su-yeon and Sum – the two sisters –

GEN: – yes I picked that up –

BEN: – were back home from somewhere with the



father and stepmother. Except, like the whole time you knew that something mysterious was going on.

TAY: The sisters seemed very much afraid of their stepmother all the time. They hardly were speaking to her.

BEN: Ja, but that made sense in the end when I realized that Su-yeon was actually dead –

TAY: – 'Cos the stepmother murdered her –

BEN: – And Sumi was imagining that her sister was still alive... I guess because she was deeply bummed about her murder.

MINKY: She didn't actually murder her, but she could have stopped her from dying.

CHRIS: So in the end did you dig it?

BEN: Sort of.

TAY: It's not my mug of tea.

BEN: It's cup.

TAY: What?

BEN: Cup.

TAY: No, it was scary.