
March 11, 2009

CIMMFEST: IT'S A WRAP

The **jury's votes are in**, and they're all good films (otherwise I wouldn't have programmed them), but here are my favorites from the inaugural CIMMFest.

Best Documentary Feature: *Todd P Goes to Austin (USA)*, directed by Jay Buim. The underground bands in this road movie-cum-concert film are getting to where they aren't so underground anymore, so I wonder where Todd Patrick, DIY impresario, tirelessly driven patron saint of loud music played in unorthodox places, and sometimes pretentious blowhard, will turn next. I hope Jay Buim will be there to document it, because his debut feature is a perfectly blended examination of the backbreaking work that goes into putting on a show outside the tottering, gasping behemoth of the music industry, and the contagious charge of energy that results when the work pays off.

Runner-Up: *Agile, Mobile, Hostile: A Year with Andre Williams (USA)*, directed by Tricia Todd and Eric Matthies.

Best Narrative Feature: *The Life and Death of Gotel Botel (Israel)*, directed by Daniel Sivan. The somewhat messy debut feature of Daniel Sivan shows the rise and fall of musician who trades his friends and artistic legitimacy for fame as a glam-rock messiah. It's not a new topic, but Sivan and company attack it with such gusto, throwing



ABOUT ME

I write reviews for **Goatdog's Movies**; edit and/or proofread circuit court decisions, advertising copy, and the occasional book; run the projector at and help program films for a revival house in Chicago; help make documentaries at an indie film studio; and, recently, make artistamps.

OSCAR TRACKING

Best Picture: Done
Gone with the Wind (1939) 4.5 goats
Nashville (1975) 473 goats
Becket (1964) 4 goats

Best Director: 41 left (90% done)
 Jean Renoir, *The Southerner* (1945) 4.5

elements of a half-dozen genres at the screen, that it's easy to forgive its occasional incoherence. The sequence where rock star Gotel Botel is reborn—in a mish-mash of reality TV confessional, musical theater, animation, and flames—was the visual highlight of the festival.

Runner-up: *Punching the Clown* (USA), directed by Gregori Viens.

Best Documentary Short: *Hooray for Anything (Australia)*, directed by Nicholas Godfrey. The South Australian underground bands featured in this doc could show Todd P a thing or two about DIY—they eschew roofs and walls, plugging in and holding impromptu concerts wherever they find electrical outlets on the street. The film is shot like it's undercover, full of grainy, pitch-black, and night-vision footage of teens rocking out until the cops chase them away.

Runner-up: *Jaffawiye* (Israel), directed by Dan Deutsch.

Best Narrative Short: *Pavane (Canada)*, directed by Paul Quarrington. When I accepted this film to the festival, I told its creators, producer Judith Keenan and writer/director Paul Quarrington, that it was "a great demonstration of how much life and backstory one can fit in a short running time. I think it has more to say than most feature-length films." I forgot to mention how much it gains from repeated viewings: peerless camera work and shot framing by Quarrington and cinematographer Gregor Hagey, fascinatingly opaque performances by Geraint Wyn-Davies and Ted Dysktra, and a bravura animated sequence by Chris Minos.

Runner-up: *Botnik!* (USA), directed by Jackie Smessaert Brennan.

Best Music Video: *The Heist and the*

goats
William Wyler, *The Collector* (1965) 3 goats

Best Actress: 154 left (61% done)

Katharine Hepburn in *Morning Glory* (1933) perf = 2.5 goats

Geraldine Page in *Sweet Bird of Youth* (1962) perf = 4.5 goats

Bette Davis, *Dangerous* (1935) perf = 2.5 goats

Best Actor: 100 left (74% done)

Clark Gable, *GwtW* (1939) perf = 4.5 goats

Richard Burton, *Becket* (1964) perf = 4 goats

Peter O'Toole, *Becket* (1964) perf = 5 goats

Best Supporting Actress: 113 left (68% done)

Shirley Knight in *SBoY* (1962) perf = 2.5 goats

Ronee Blakley, *Nashville* (1975) perf = 5 goats

Lily Tomlin, *Nashville* (1975) perf = 4 goats

Best Supporting Actor: 91 left (74% done)

Charles Coburn, *The Devil and Miss Jones* (1941) perf = 4 goats

Ed Begley in *SBoY* (1962) perf = 2 goats

Edmund Gwenn, *Mister 880* (1950)

Accomplice - "More Control" (USA), directed by Steve Daniels. Driven primarily by a love of actual celluloid film, director Steve Daniels created a super-8 masterpiece that quotes liberally from such revival house staples as *The Blob* and *The Tingler*. Pitting the band members against the very film they're being shot on, Daniels creates an eloquent and funny look at how media consumes us as we consume media.

Runner-up: Il Tandre Neu - "Exit Wound" (USA), directed by Lucy Munger.

Special Jury Award for Best Long-Form Short Film (longer than 20 minutes, shorter than 45): *Yard Work Is Hard Work* (USA), directed by Jodie Mack. Gorgeously, obsessively animated using stop-motion and thousands of magazine cutouts, Mack's epic about reality bitch-slapping youthful dreams into submission is eerily prescient, featuring a Sondheim-style song about adjustable rate mortgages.

Special Jury Award for Best Film That Wasn't Eligible for Competition: *Tampico* (USA), directed by Suree Towfighnia. She finished a month before our cutoff date, which is too bad, because her intimate portrait of a Chicago busker is by far the best short doc, and one of the best films period, that we screened.

Posted by mike, March 11, 2009 1:00 AM

Comments

Hey Mike,

Thanks so much for the vote, it was certainly a fascinating mix of films at your inaugural celebration - never seen anything like it! In fact, there are a few films I *would* like to see, again and for the first time, having attended for just two days of the total festival run - let us know if you're doing more

perf = 3 goats

RECENT REVIEWS

There Will Be Blood (2007) 4.5 goats
Juno (2007) 3.5 goats
The Golden Compass (2007) 2 goats

RECENT MUSIC

The Soft Boys, 1976-1981. While punk was exploding messily (not that there's anything wrong with that), the Soft Boys were quietly and quirkily inventing "alternative" music.

What I'm listening to now

RECENT BOOKS

The USA Trilogy by John Dos Passos. I'm on volume 2, *1919*. Parts of it are the best thing I've ever read, and parts of it make my eyes glaze over.

Movies on Trial: The Legal System on the Silver Screen by Anthony Chase. A really well-crafted film history that necessarily delves into the history of the legal system. Pretty enlightening stuff.

screenings - we'd take the excuse to come back to Chicago - no problem :)

All the best for the next, and for your gracious personal care and attention.
Judith

Posted by: **Judith** at March 12, 2009 12:51 AM

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Gump
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Movie Ever
People Love Robert
Pattinson

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Mimi Smartypants

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Nick's Flick Picks:
The Blog

Self-Styled Siren
Film Experience Blog
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**POWERED BY
MOVABLE TYPE 3.34**
