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gathet
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Cinema Political

2025
reviews
zine

the
gathet International
Film Festival

I'm still thinking about that short film "Hairy Legs" ... I was sooo irritated by it.

It started out so cute, but then felt really cringey and out of touch.

Totally. Self-satisfied & naiveté-gazey. I LOVED the beauty though.

Me too! What a beautiful representation of the intimacy of everyday moments against a backdrop of intense political upheaval.

I loved the sisters' awesome performances.

Agreed. What an honest relationship they were able to show. The little sister had her own character arc too. The onlooker innocence that gets hardened off in a way, especially from when she believes the dad's tales to controlling him saying to stop lying. Also, I thought the dad character had a lot of power, even though he was also a bit of a despicable dad. The pervasiveness of patriarchy...

I'm just realizing those two films were programmed together because they're both coming of age stories from female filmmakers.

Of course. Reinas was much more powerful, even if it was less relatable. My lasting impression is of its quietness, and the impact of the loud, joyful moments.

Visual Pleasure

KEEP IN TOUCH:

We are committed to screening important documentary features in gathet that bring folks together, connect to local issues, and expand our understanding of human rights, environmental justice and liberation.

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THE ROOM NEXT DOOR

POP ART CLASHING COLOURS, CLASSICAL DEATH VIEWS

Classic but outdated silent lesbian love story (maybe?) with even more silent innuendos.

Erotic Vagrandy said it all, 'the topic of sex drifting from person to person, begging for a place to land and call home... but remaining homeless throughout the movie.' Death, fear and death-cogerness coexisting under the same roof keeping each other right-sized and manageable.

But really, it was the oversized over-the-top brightly coloured knitwear that was the most spectacular takeaway of the movie... which, if it wasn't clear, is about euthanasia.

SM

THANK YOU FOR VOLUNTEERS + PRINTED AT THE PUBLIC LIBRARY, TOGETHER WE ARE POWERFUL!

THANK YOU FOR READING! (CPG)

"Whether we call it "willing suspension of disbelief" or just plain submission, in the darkness of the theatre most audiences choose to give themselves over, and the imaginations that have created those images.

It is that moment of submission, of overt or covert seduction that fascinates me as a critic. I want to critically understand and "read" what is happening in that moment, what the film tries to do to us."

bell hooks

The Monk and the Gun is a delightful parable about the importance of valuing community and harmony over personal gains. There are three major parties at play in this film: the newly instated Bhutanese government officials whose first job is to teach villagers how to vote, an American and his interpreter who are searching for an antique American Civil War rifle, and a lama intending to "set it right" who sends his attending monk Tashi to collect two guns in time for the first election.

Director Pawo Choyning Dorji uses this fun and beautiful film to pick at conflict-based culture and the assumption that Euro-centric democracy is the only correct way. Dorji is asking his audience to check that assumption and consider how fractured democratic societies are. When being taught about political parties and dividing lines, an elder asks why they are being taught to fight. "Why are you teaching us to be rude? This isn't who we are," she admonishes.

Bhutan is a country that has chosen to measure its growth not by its GDP, but by its GNH (Gross National Happiness, measured by ecological conservation, equitable socio-economic growth, freedom and preservation of culture, and good governance). While regarded as a poor country by the west, Dorji is asking his audience if wealth and progress are actually worth what is lost.

From Goldsmith

QUEER

Anyone else feeling hungover after this? Yet another movie about an old rich man dying alone who never evolved or found happiness.

Preying on a young, questioning queer, getting blurred drunken consent for sex, emotionally empty, primal and lovely... a detrimental and outdated stereotype.

This narrative has nothing to do with queer culture, and everything to do with dark unresolved trauma that seeps into others. The main characters just happen to be gay.

A period drama maybe, but films that continue to highlight homosexuals as derelict wrecks on the margins of society are devoid of hope and are a complete disservice to the LGBTQ+ community.

Why was it even called 'Queen'?

SM

The Stand invites viewers to witness the experience of opposing illegal resource extraction on unceded territory - to fulfill the ancestral obligation of abiding by ancestral laws regardless of any level of violence threatened by the laws of an occupying society.

The Stand shows us how Canadian logging corporations, law courts, and their representatives pick and choose which of their own laws to follow and enforce in the name of 'national economic pursuits.' Today, we see that these same systems have not moved an inch in ethos, morality, or legal footing.

To watch Miles Richardson be interrogated by a television personality - media titans who proclaim the value of the law whilst staunchly signing off on the brutalization of Native people on unceded land - in the midst of Qaymíxw elders preparing to be arrested, with no other recourse - The Stand provides a visceral, buried, and profound eye-witness account.

The last sites of human community the Earth will ever witness will be the frontlines. Free Palestine.

Ace Harry & Sami Nasr