

Detroit Docs

A Festival for *Real* Film Lovers

Saturday, November 16

1:00 PM



A Match Made In Seven

By 1990, 1 in every 2 North American Jews was marrying out of faith. In 1999, Orthodox Rabbis in Los Angeles invented SpeedDating, to try and reverse this trend. *A Match Made In Seven* is an offbeat documentary that centers on Vancouver's 1st ever SpeedDating event.

Four young singles - two men and two women between the ages of 30-35 - determined to find 'the perfect match,' bring us into the main event for a truly voyeuristic dating experience. In the weeks leading up to SpeedDating we follow their intense search for a Jewish partner, and track their results after the big event.

Audience Award, Best Documentary, Temecula Valley International Film Festival

Director

Ilan Saragosti

Origination

Canada (Vancouver, British Columbia)

Running Time

45 min.

2:00 PM



Minnie's Meise

Minnie's Meise [Minnie's Story] is a comical but warmhearted documentary featuring two charismatic and eccentric octogenarians: Minnie Bernberg and her senile but spunky sister, Nettie Cohen. Minnie and Nettie share their memories of growing up as children of Yiddish speaking immigrants in boom-time Detroit. Minnie's ruminations on life offer a soulful but often hilarious perspective on America past and present.

Director

Lisa Cohen

Origination

USA (Brooklyn, New York)

Running Time

25 min.

2:40 PM



Q, What's Wrong With This Picture? (a valentine)

"Immediately after the broadcast, the toughest television critic I know, my wife, called to say how much she had enjoyed your film. She added her view that I had stumbled across a terrific idea in my postscript to you on the air - that a major film studio should run your film as a short feature on screens nationwide. I did think it was a good idea but, sadly, my wife is not the head of a major studio. Now all you have to do is find one. What you have here is a spectacular piece of work." - Brian Williams, Anchor/Managing Editor, MSNBC

Directors Choice Award, The Black Maria Film Festival

The 2002 Gabriel Award, Unda-USA

Director Jason Kessler
Origination USA (New York City, New York)
Running Time 17 min.

3:00 PM Y'all Come! The Hell Hole Swamp Festival

Best Documentary Short, Audience Award, Dahlongega Int'l Film Festival

Directors Jay Edwards & Dave Drabik
Origination USA (Atlanta, Georgia)
Running Time 23 min.

3:35 PM The Last Breadbox



Beijing, summer, 2001. The decision on Beijing's Olympic bid is fast approaching and the city's thousands of cab drivers are beginning to feel the pinch.

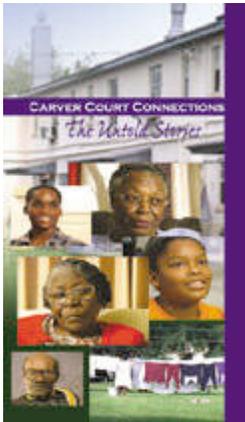
Wang is an ex-cabbie, forced into early retirement. Guo Jun is a woman who fought family, friends and tradition to become a cab driver. Ju Shen, a driver in his forties, is obsessed with creating a tropical fish tank for his retired wife.

In a climate of momentous national change, these three Beijingers express what it is to be Chinese, to be taxi drivers, and why the Beijing Olympics will change the face of China.

Director Sam Voutas
Origination Australia (Melbourne)
Running Time 54 min.

4:30 PM Carver Court Connections

www.camediainc.com



Carver Court is a 55 year old property of the Orlando housing authority, and home to over 200 families. As in many communities, a gulf exists between Carver Court's youth and its elders, some of whom had lived on the property for more than 50 years. In an effort to reconnect their generations, younger residents learned basic interview techniques and began to collect the older residents' remarkable stories, from Mr. Lockhart's life in the circus, to Mrs. Siplin's recollection of Emmet Till, a boy murdered for whistling at a white girl, to Mr. Danner's harrowing experiences in the last all-black units of the US Army during the Korean War. This film is a record of those histories, and of the bonds formed by their telling.

Best Short Documentary Jury Award, Tambay Film & Video Festival 2002

Director Michael Green
Origination USA (Winter Park, Florida)
Running Time 27 min.

5:15 PM

Go The Distance

<http://gothedistancedoc.com/>



"It was the vision of Paul Scherdell to confront his own demons, challenge his fears and take a cross-country adventure that would all be caught on film. His self-described "inner journey" was a unique rehabilitation tool that is now receiving high accolades.

"This film has a tremendous amount of love, and touched many of us here at the festival very deeply," said Judy Krassowski, one of the founders of the NHFX." -- Kimberly Houghton

Paralyzed in a motorcycle accident at the age of 21, Paul Scherdell realizes a lifelong dream of traveling across America, all of his care provided by an old high school buddy, a Gulf War veteran. Together they find a larger happiness along the way, as Paul discovers that his limitations are sometimes less than those of others who are "temporarily able-bodied". Selected for screening by the Boston Museum of Fine Arts in December, 2002, GO THE DISTANCE has won the acclaim of many rehabilitation professionals as an inspiration for those who are disabled, their families and the people who work with them.

Best Documentary, New Hampshire Film Expo

Director Bill Holloway
Origination USA (Westminster, Massachusetts)
Running Time 57 min.

6:30

Our Road To Kosovo

<http://idc.siu.edu>



The Road to Kosovo was traveled by six college students in this digital documentary chronicling two years of the refugee crisis during the 1999/2000 Kosovar conflict. From mainly a Kosovar Albanian standpoint we learn about life in a refugee camp and the process of reclamation that the refugees must go through when they find that their once familiar society has become only livable under constant military supervision. Throughout the documentary, these young American students discover that the Kosovars have become foreigners in their own land. Documented at a very human level, the crisis hits home with its viewers.

2002 Angelus Awards Finalist

Director James Saldana
Origination USA (Carbondale, Illinois)
Running Time 26 min.

7:00 PM

Sprawling Of America, Part I: Inner City Blues



<http://www.gltv.org/>

Across the nation, urban downtowns are being redeveloped. Despite this, people, tax revenue, and jobs continue to exit cities-making the United States the first society to have a greater number of people living in suburbs than in either cities or rural areas. **The Sprawling of America: Inner City Blues**, part one of a two-hour documentary on land use, examines the social, political, and economic causes of sprawl and urban decline.

Director Chris Cook
Origination USA (Ann Arbor, Michigan)
Running Time 60 min.

8:15 PM

The Long Night



In the early hours of the morning a young Tibetan man left his village with his best friend. It was too dangerous to utter good byes so they slipped out of their rooms and into the darkness. It took over a month to cross the hazardous mountains into India. He left behind an occupied country, which would take everything that was precious to him. This is the story of loss. Through a poetic montage of images we are taken on a journey into the long night.



"A memory piece that imaginatively arranges its visual materials into a mediation on Chinese migration. The delicate flow of visual effects, smoke, still photos, posed tableaux and calligraphic assemblages gives a moving, Buddhist tenor to a Peter-Greenaway-style of multimedia." - VCA School of Film & Television 2001

Director Katrina Fish
Origination Australia (Victoria)
Running Time 9 min.

8:25 PM

Detroit - The Documentary (trailer)

<http://detroitdocumentary.com>



"...Detroit: Anywhere in the world that name conjures up images of the assembly line and the Motown sound. But beneath the surface lies an unbelievable past that has been swept away from the eyes of the world. We have set out on a mission to cultivate some of this lost history while we create a living documentary of this great city."

Directors Kevin Leeser
Origination USA (Detroit, Michigan)
Running Time 3 min.

8:30 PM

Daddy & Papa

<http://daddyandpapa.com/>



Daddy & Papa explores the personal, cultural, and political impact of gay men who are making a decision that is at once traditional and revolutionary: to raise children themselves. Taking us inside four gay male families, *Daddy & Papa* traces the day-to-day challenges and the larger, critical issues that inevitably intersect their private lives -the ambiguous place of interracial families in America, the wonder and

precariousness of surrogacy and adoption, the complexities of marriage and divorce within the gay community, and the legality of their own parenthood.

Best Documentary, Miami Gay and Lesbian Film Festival, 2002

Golden Gate Award, Best First Person Documentary, San Francisco International Film Festival, 2002

Official Selection, Sundance Film Festival 2002

Best Documentary, Connecticut Gay & Lesbian Film Festival, 2002

Audience Award For Best Film,
Audience Award For Best Documentary, Orinda Film Festival, 2002

Audience Award For Best Documentary, Florida Film Festival, 2002

Audience Award For Best Documentary, 1st Runner Up, Seattle Int'l Film Festival, 2002

Runner Up, Best Film, Cleveland International Film Festival 2002

Emerging Film Award For Best Documentary, North Carolina Gay & Lesbian Film Festival 2002

Breaking the Mold Award, Newport Film Festival 2002

Director Johnny Symons
Origination USA (Berkeley, California)
Running Time 60 min.

10:00 PM



No Dumb Questions

www.nodumbquestions.com

"Uncle Bill is becoming a woman!
This lighthearted and poignant documentary profiles three sisters, aged 6, 9 and 11, struggling to understand why and how their Uncle Bill is becoming a woman.

These girls love their Uncle Bill, but will they feel the same way when he becomes their new Aunt Barbara?

With just weeks until Bill's first visit as Barbara, the sisters navigate the complex territories of anatomy, sexuality, personality, gender and fashion. Their reactions are funny, touching, and distinctly different.

This film offers a fresh perspective on a complex situation from a family that insists there are no dumb questions."

Honorable Mention For Best Short Film, Sundance Film Festival

Audience Award for Best Short Film, Los Angeles Independent Film Festival - IFP/West

Honorable Mention For Best New Filmmaker
Hot Docs International Documentary Film Festival

Director's Choice Award, Black Maria Film Festival

Best Digital Film, Shorts International Film Festival, New York

Lucy Audience Award, Newport International Film Festival

Audience Award For Out-Standing Documentary Short Film, OUTFEST Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Film Festival

Audience Award For Best Short Film, San Francisco International Lesbian and Gay Film Festival

Audience Award For Best Short Film, Boulder Gay and Lesbian Film Festival

Best Short Film, Seattle Lesbian and Gay Film Festival

Director Melissa Regan
Origination USA (San Francisco, California)
Running Time 24 min.

10:30 PM

Vakvagany



<http://www.vakvagany.com/>

This film is an experiment in the true visual communication of film. It features no actors, set, or scenario. Above all, it really happened.

In Budapest, Hungary, a man with a moving truck helps two middle aged siblings relocate and steals a box of home movies from their belongings. The film reels are then sold to a visiting independent filmmaker from the United States who returns home and views them only to find them too good to be "amateur". Much of the family footage contains short narratives impersonating cinema as well as several images that would ordinarily be considered inappropriate for filming. There are also several reels of the father at work in what is apparently a government position documenting the inventory of jewelry and other personal property following WW II.

The filmmaker puts together a production crew and returns to Hungary to track down the two siblings in an attempt to answer questions about the film content. Both the son and daughter are found living chaotic and separate lives of drunkenness and mental illness.

With new film material in hand, the filmmaker returns to the United States and invites three professionals (James Ellroy, Stan Brakhage, and Dr. Roy Menninger) to experience the old and the new material and offer their own interpretations.

Best of Festival Award, Southern Hungarian Film Festival, 2002

Independent Filmmaker Award, KAN Film Festival, 2002

Best Experimental Film, Great Lakes Film Festival, 2002

Official Selection:

The International Documentary Film Festival at Amsterdam, 2002

Sidewalk Moving Picture Festival, 2002

Gladys Crane Mountain Plains Film Festival 2002

Toronto Online Film Festival, 2002

Cincinnati International Film Festival, 2002

Denver International Film Festival, 2002

St. Louis International Film Festival, 2002

Georgetown Independent Film Festival, 2002
Mostra Valencia Film Festival, 2002 (Spain)
Titanic Budapest Film Festival, 2002 (Hungary)
The New York City Struggling Artists Film Festival, 2002
The Three Rivers Film Festival at Pittsburgh, 2002
The Festival of Festivals, 2002
The Santa Fe Film Festival, 2002
The Revelation Perth International Film Festival, 2003 (Australia)

Director Benjamin Meade
Origination USA (Lenexa, Kansas) & Hungary (Budapest)
Running Time 86 min.

11:55 PM



Lemon Is Lemon

"Five guys gather in an abandoned building, cook up and shoot up dope. Later they chat. One of them is Vikicha..."

Faces of Drugs Award, Palm Springs International Film Festival

Best Short Documentary, Cinequest 2002

Honorable Mention, 40th Ann Arbor Film Festival 2002

Directors Konstantin Bojanov & Ivaylo Simidchiev
Origination USA (New York, New York)
Running Time 23 min.

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