

Off to Cannes

Locally-made film 'Just Desserts' slated to screen at annual fest

By Josh Katz 2009-03-31



If you're reading this, chances are you're looking forward to the 2009 Cannes Film Festival (and if you're not, then, hey, it's your trip, man). Maybe you're excited that Pixar's "Up" opens the festival. Maybe you're wondering if Quentin Tarantino's WWII epic "Inglourious Basterds" will mark the giddy apex or loathsome nadir of his career (and for QT, the two often go hand-in-hand). Or maybe you're wondering if there's anyone left for Lars Von Trier to offend with his latest, the sensitively titled "Antichrist."

Chances are, "Just Desserts" isn't on your radar. It's a short film, shot on Munjoy Hill at Bar Lola by writer-director John E. Seymore of local production group Wasted Minds Media Group, Inc. Claiming Strindberg's "The Stronger" as its inspiration, the film's scope is quite modest, a meeting between a wife and a mistress. Its buzz barely registers under that generated by a Tarantino or a Pixar.

But if all goes well, "Just Desserts" will screen alongside those giants in Cannes. For Seymore and company, it could boost them to a whole new level of public consciousness. As of right now, the possibility of a Cannes showing has helped Wasted Minds begin developing two more shorts, a feature and five TV shows. That's on a "maybe." Imagine what a "yes" could do. Symbolically, the potential showing at Cannes puts Maine in the cinematic spotlight in a way it's never been previously. And not just backing Stephen King's horrors or Sean Connery and "Red October," but as a viable center to create world cinema. That's the great thing about Cannes. The whole world watches it.

"Just Desserts" screens in May following Cannes judging, both locally and in the festival circuit, and Seymore will offer a press screening before the public debut. When I know more, so will you.

What's coming up where:

Frontier Café
www.explorefrontier.com

April 20: "The World According to Monsanto." Bad news is this anti-Monsanto documentary preaches to the converted. Good news is being converted makes you smart.

April 22: "Food Matters." Another documentary serving, and this time illustrating, America's obsession with toxic therapies and empty calories.

Brunswick 10
www.movietickets.com

April 23: "This American Life Live." A live broadcast of "This American Life?" Featuring a musical performance from Joss Whedon? I just overdosed on Awesome.

Eveningstar
www.eveningstarcinema.com

April 4: "Broken Blossoms." Yes, it's silent. Get over it. Brilliance needs no words.

April 10: "Sunshine Cleaning." Considering it's a near-copy of "Little Miss Sunshine" plus more dead bodies, it's not half bad.

SPACE
www.space538.org

April 15: "Doxita 2 — All in a Day's Work." SPACE's screenings have kicked butt recently, and this is no exception. Five documentary shorts, focusing on subjects as diverse as disabled Scottish breadmakers and Andes Mountain ice harvesters.

University of Southern Maine

April 4: 7th Annual Maine Deaf Film Festival. The coolest thing I have this week. A spate of films created by and focusing on the deaf community. A far cry from the bland cultures Hollywood force-feeds.

Josh Katz studied the musicality of sewer vapors in the southern states before moving to Portland, where someone suggested that film criticism might be a good change of pace.