



LONELY PAMPHLETEER REVIEW



"[L]iberty of the press is the right of the lonely pamphleteer... as much as of the large metropolitan publisher..."

White, J., Branzburg v. Hayes, 408 U.S. 665, 704 (1972)

Friday, November 08, 2013

Miles from the Mainstream

D. R. ZUKERMAN, proprietor

~ Images of a Film Festival ~

NOVEMBER 21, 2004 --

More than 300 films were screened at the New York International Independent Film Festival, November 12 to 21 at the Cinema East Cinema on Second Avenue in Manhattan.

Running times ranged from a few minutes to over two hours. LPR viewed films from Australia, Canada, Greece, India, Italy, Mexico, Scotland, Spain, Russia, as well as the US, learning about racial tension at Penn State, the career of the late Saul Wellman as a "professional revolutionary". the persecution of the Falun Gong movement in China, the German Shepherd world championships - perhaps some of the festival's directors will go on to great commercial success.

The motivation at this point in their careers is, it seems fair to say, self-expression, not self-aggrandizement. The kind of motivation widely-found, perhaps, on the internet.

LPR liked the comment in the Greek film "Kalabush" that the important thing is not to prevail over heavy-handed authority, but simply to stand against it. The Canadian film, "Sandstorm," about the persecution of the Falun Gong movement in China, showed the terrible price an individual can pay when asserting claims of individual conscience against the oppressive demands of authority, demands that seem to arise from the exercise of power for power's sake.

"Sandstorm" director Michael Mahonen told the audience, at the conclusion of



Judith Montell, director of "Professional Revolutionary: The Life of Saul Wellman," with Abe Smorodin, who served under Wellman in the Spanish Civil War.



Actress in Facade, with LPR's apologies for misplacing card with her name.

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the November 20 screening, that the Chinese government tried to get festivals in Houston and San Francisco to cancel screenings of the film. He added that these efforts failed. Perhaps Chinese consulates might suggest, instead, that U.S. film festivals offer films that are approved by the Chinese government -- extolling, perhaps, reflexive acceptance of authority?

This view was, of course, represented in the "Sandstorm" script. Perhaps it might also be indicated in films about "revolutionaries" -- say Communist revolutionaries.

The documentary on the life of Saul Wellman made it clear that he went to jail more for his belief than his actions. The documentary did not, however, explore those beliefs. What type of government did Mr. Wellman advocate? If he was simply seeking social reform, why the need to turn to communism, and away from our Founding legacy of liberty where leaders work for the "common good" while remaining of the people.

This documentary noted that after World War II, Mr. Wellman worked as a Communist to organize Ford autoworkers. The documentary did not acknowledge that the United Auto Workers, under the leadership of Walter Reuther vigorously opposed communists in the labor movement.

This documentary does note that Mr. Wellman left the Party after Nikita Khrushchev revealed the terrible abuses in the Soviet Union under Stalin. Was it Lenin who declared, in defense of The Revolution, that one does not make an omelet without breaking eggs? Was this, then, to have been understood as a defense of treating people as eggs -- to be broken for the benefit of others?

The Indian short film, "One Among You," from director Revathi Radhakrishnan, shows the happy ending in a story about a woman sold into prostitution, who, trying to escape, suffered terrible abuse from her jailers. In this story, justice was finally realized.

But, as "Kalabush" indicated, for justice



Angela Vanegas, director of the documentary "The Genius Creator."



Callistus D'Costa, director of "Halfway House," an Australian short film about a place between life and death.

to have any chance of prevailing, society needs people willing to seek it out.



Robb Scott, pencil artist from Halifax, Nova Scotia whose work was shown at the festival's opening.



David Giardina, director of "Taffy Was Born."



Corrado Ravazzini, director of "Portraits -- Snapshots from a Dream," described as a paranormal thriller (80 minutes).



Elena Rossi, auteur of "We Got the Picture" -- a short based on family home movies of a movie theater-owning family.



Javier Cantero, director of the Mexican short film "The Analyst."



Guillem Riera Janes, director two short (four minutes each) Spanish films, "Le Velo," and "Aeroplanes."



Jay Frisch, director of "Pulling," about the backroom world of bartending?



Dean Holtermann, director with Mick Rock of "Picture This - Behind the Scenes: Debbie Harry & Blondie" by Mick Rock.



Marlon Brando by Jamie Kovacs, another artist whose work was shown at the opening.



Elena Rossi's mom, who appears in



Michael Mahonen, director of "Sandstorm."

"We Got the Picture," is seen raking leaves in the film.



The cast of "Once Upon a Time in New York," written and directed by Craig Parten (in baseball cap) - who plays, quite chillingly, a professional killer.



Scene at the after-party November 15th at The Dark Light.



David Hale Luff, director of the short film "Red Rocks" - (it is gory).



Paul Saleba, director of "The Underdog," a film about German Shepherd competition.



Peace With Doubt! performed at the after-party November 16, at the



Anatoli Ivanov, director of "Black Prince," a mystical film drawn from the life of Alexander Pushkin.



The cast of "Sakenara," directed by Alan Chan (on the right).



Stuart Lessner, director of "Sleeping Does Lie." Ed Asner plays a sheriff of a small Texas town who turns out to

Leopard Lounge.



And how could an event be complete in New York City without the LPRmobile getting a ticket from one of the swarms of officials sent by the finemeister to consume us. Ah... for a movie about PVB in NYC.

be a villain. Asner, of TV's Lou Grant fame, is a noted liberal. Is he trying to tell us something in this 24-minute film?



Revathi Radhakrishnan, director of "One Among You."



Couple from Toronto, with LPR's apologies for misplacing cards with their names. This actress appeared in "Birth Control," a short movie directed by Paul Nguyen about population control cops.



Youxin Yang, director of Feuille, a beautifully photographed story about a modern love triangle. (In French and Chinese.)



The Cast of the campy short film-- "Night of the WereMike II: Attack of The Patula: War of the Pot Monsters," directed by Joe Brady (in blue shirt).
