



Stand out from the crowd with a degree from DeVry University.

Introducing the Multimedia Design and Development bachelor's degree program. Create a successful career by mastering web design, becoming skilled in the digital arts, and gaining practical business savvy.

LEARN MORE

Home > South Florida Events > Story > Moving pictures

Moving pictures

Less is more at this year's Palm Beach International Film Festival

By John Thomason
City Link Metromix
April 21, 2009

0 comments | Add Your Own

- Email
- Print View
- Share
- Add to Favorites
- Add to playlist



Just as bigger doesn't always mean better, smaller certainly doesn't mean worse. Yes, the 14th annual Palm Beach International Film Festival, which runs Thursday to Monday throughout the county, is a scaled-down version of the traditionally eight-day festival, and the number of films has dropped from about 140 to 110.

But judging by the handful of films screened to the press this year, the festival's standard of quality is higher than it has been in years, and it continues to attract top-tier talent. Veteran actor James Cromwell, of "Babe" and "Six Feet Under" fame, will be honored with a Career Achievement Award at Friday's black-tie gala at the Boca Raton Resort and Club, and Joel Zwick, director of "My Big Fat Greek Wedding," will host a breakfast and informal Q&A 10 a.m. Saturday at Delray Beach's Seagate Beach Club.

A handful of seminars will take place throughout the festival, along with screenings of student films and world and state premieres of shorts, documentaries and features from the United States, Italy, Germany, South Africa, Israel, India, Sri Lanka and elsewhere. Films will be screened at Sunrise Mizner Park in Boca Raton, Florida Atlantic University's DeSantis Center, Movies of Delray and the Lake Worth Playhouse. Tickets per film cost regular theater admission, but discounted gold, platinum and student passes are available.

Here is a sampling of the films being screened at this year's festival. For a full schedule of films and events, visit Pbifilmfest.org.

The Day After Peace

Experienced Barbers • Family E
Walk-Ins & Appointment

HOLLYWOOD

Exclusive Barbers

Fades • Tapes • Blowouts
Hot Shaves • Nails

Back to School Special!

954-962-

1801 NW 68th Avenue • Ho

GrubHub.
DISCOVER WHO D

VARIETY DELIVER

www.GrubHub.com/SF

As the title suggests, "The Day After Peace" is a continuation of Jeremy Gilley's 2004 documentary, "Peace One Day," in which scrappy activist Gilley goes to the United Nations and secures the help of Hollywood's great dames (Judi Dench and Helen Mirren) to sanction an annual day of global peace and cease-fire on Sept. 21. Five years later, he's still at it. His help this time is younger and more glamorous—Angelina Jolie, Jude Law, Annie Lennox—and the results are genuinely life-changing. Gilley battles terrorism, bureaucracy and cynicism, but his dream of world peace nearly becomes a nightmare of bankruptcy until a potential ad campaign from Coca-Cola promises a brighter future. Meanwhile, he helps thousands in Afghanistan to get vaccinated with life-saving polio shots. The movie is essentially an 82-minute advertisement for Gilley's cause and Web site, but unlike activist filmmakers such as Michael Moore, Gilley's ambitions are never partisan and, most important, his ego never interferes. The movie will screen noon Saturday at FAU in Boca Raton.

Gotta Dance

Like a companion piece to last year's "Young at Heart," the life-affirming documentary "Gotta Dance" finds senior citizens immersing themselves in youth culture and reclaiming their own youths in the process. The movie follows a group of 13 amateur dancers trying out for, and eventually forming, the first all-senior dance team for the New Jersey Nets basketball team. Led through grueling hip-hop routines by the perfectionist young Nets dancers, the old ladies (and one man) exceed all expectations. Soon enough, their 15 minutes of fame extend to several weeks, with features in national newspapers and appearances on "The Today Show" and "Good Morning America." The images of dancers raised on Tony Bennett and "Singin' in the Rain" shaking their moneymakers to Fat Joe is hilarious by itself, but director Dori Berinstein never lets the obvious irony overwhelm the film's deeper meaning. We get a poignant understanding of the characters' pasts, their personal lives and the goals and aspirations that led them to the NBA hardwood—goals that, it goes without saying, didn't end with retirement. If there's any flaw in "Gotta Dance," it's that it has the look and feel of a reality TV show, but the result is profound and enormously entertaining. The movie will screen noon Saturday at Sunrise Mizner Park and 7 p.m. Sunday at Movies of Delray.

How I Got Lost

Jake (Jacob Fishel) is a sportswriter hung up on a lost love. Andrew (Aaron Stanford) is his best friend, a jaded Wall Street banker. Plagued by restlessness and existential doubt, these 20-something victims of post-9 / 11 malaise leave New York for a seemingly directionless journey in this lethargic American indie from writer-director Joe Leonard. "How I Got Lost," an expansion of Leonard's 2005 short of the same name, is a road movie that literally runs out of gas, petering with dirgelike speed into small-town America and the various comforts and sorrows it brings. We can all relate to feelings of helplessness and re-evaluation in the wake of a national tragedy such as Sept. 11, but Leonard is hoping these emotions alone will bear the brunt of the empathy for his lost souls for the entire length of his feature. It doesn't really work, and we're given little reason to care about his protagonists. Problems are magnified by the movie's awkward, uncertain tone, which unsuccessfully merges phony comedic quirk with bleak tragedy. The film will screen 9 p.m. Friday at FAU and 2:30 p.m. Sunday at Movies of Delray.

Our Disappeared

"Our Disappeared" is a great example of the personal-journey documentary, in which the narrator revisits a harrowing past event in order to preserve its memory and provide therapeutic closure. In this case, filmmaker Juan Mandelbaum travels back to his native Argentina to relive the horror of the right-wing military dictatorship that caused the "disappearance" of some 30,000 Argentineans from 1976 to 1983. As Mandelbaum tracks down the survivors, including colleagues he's seeing again for the first time in decades, tears flow like the blood of the disappeared, immortalized here in the frozen poses of yellowed photographs. The acts described by the victims' relatives are unspeakably horrifying, their mere descriptions likely to elicit more squeamish disgust than any torture-filled slasher film. It's a painful reminder that we know precious little about Argentina's holocaust, something Mandelbaum is hoping to change. The documentary will screen 2:45 p.m. Saturday at Sunrise Mizner Park and 2:30 p.m. Monday at Lake Worth Playhouse.

Stone of Destiny

There's nothing especially wrong with "Stone of Destiny," but as the PBIFF's opening-night film, it's an awfully bland and routine exercise. A rote heist film with a nationalist streak, the movie has a powerful foundation: It's about a student group's famous 1950s theft of Scotland's Stone of Scone, some 600 years after the artifact was captured by a British king for use in coronating monarchs at Westminster Abbey. The group is initially—and predictably—thwarted by suspicious policemen and museum guards, encountering a number of requisite hitches familiar to any simple-plan-gone-awry story spiral. The perfunctory direction is handled by an

American (Charles Martin Smith, the auteur behind Disney's "Air Bud") who understands pacing and formula but channels little of the heart and soul embodied by his rebellious protagonists. "Stone of Destiny" is based on the memoir of heist leader Ian Hamilton, played by Charlie Cox. Robert Carlyle cameos as the Scottish politician who helps finance the job. The movie will screen 7 p.m. Thursday at Sunrise Mizner Park. Director Smith will attend.

Contact John Thomason at jpthomason@citylinkmagazine.com.

Add a comment

Please [log in](#) to comment

[Party for Two @ BJ's](#)

2 Soups/Salads, Any Medium Pizza & Our Famous Pizookie® - \$19.95
BJsRestaurants.com

[The Belden-Stratford](#)

Lincoln Park landmark hotel Overlooking the Lake and Zoo
www.BeldenStratfordHotel.com

[Florida Retirement Living](#)

Top Rated Retirement Community Luxury New Homes and Golf
www.lakeashton.com



Ads by Google

More on Metromix.com

[restaurants »](#)



Island foodcation

[bars & clubs »](#)



Cosmic Bingo

[events »](#)



Best bets

[music »](#)



How Alex Nelson ended up here

[mo](#)

10
mo

SEARCH:

GO

Metromix.com

- [About metromix.com](#)
- [Blog](#)
- [Jobs](#)
- [Copyright & Terms of Service](#)
- [Privacy policy](#)
- [Contact us](#)
- [Advertise with us](#)
- [Get listed](#)
- [Site map](#)



Our Partners

- [sun-sentinel.com](#)
- [Topix.com](#)
- [Homes for sale](#)
- [apartments.com](#)
- [careerbuilder.com](#)
- [cars.com](#)
- [zap2it.com](#)

More Metromix Locations:

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Atlanta | Denver | Jackson, MS |
| Baltimore | Des Moines | Jersey Shore |
| Brevard, FL | Detroit | Lehigh Valley, PA |
| Chicago | Greenville | Los Angeles |
| Cincinnati | Gulf Coast | Louisville |
| Cleveland | Hampton Roads, VA | Nashville |
| Columbus | Honolulu | New York |
| Connecticut | Hudson Valley, NY | Orlando |
| Delaware | Indianapolis | Ozarks, MO |

Popular Searches: Restaurants

[Atlanta](#) | [Chicago](#) | [Detroit](#) | [Los Angeles](#) | [New York](#) | [Phoenix](#) | [Tampa Bay](#) | [Washington D.C.](#) | [More Cities...](#)

Popular Searches: Bars & Clubs

[Atlanta](#) | [Chicago](#) | [Detroit](#) | [Los Angeles](#) | [New York](#) | [Phoenix](#) | [Tampa Bay](#) | [Washington D.C.](#) | [More Cities...](#)

Popular places to go in:

[Atlanta](#) | [Chicago](#) | [Detroit](#) | [Los Angeles](#) | [New York](#) | [Phoenix](#) | [Tampa Bay](#) | [Washington D.C.](#) | [More Cities...](#)