Local films at Reel Trini today

Reel Trini, the new rendezvous for local film aficionados, presents the award-winning Trini films, Directions, The Siege, Quiet Desperation and The Blood & the Bois at its next edition this evening.

Directions, directed by Renee Pollonnia, which makes Trinidadians laugh at their inaptitude in explaining how to get around Port-of-Spain, was voted Best Short at the TTFF ‘08. The Best Documentary award that year went to The Siege, directed by Junior-Andrew Lett, which retraces the six-day experience of the hostages at Trinadad and Tobago Television during the 1990 attempted coup.

Quiet Desperation, also directed by Renee Pollonnia won Best Local Actress (Helen James) and Best Local Actor (Grod Roberts) at this year’s TTFF. In the film, Heathcliff is an unemployed man meeting reconvened Merlin, his wife of 35 years, is controlling and critical, especially of him. One Saturday morning, as they prepare to drive to the market, Merlin begins to lay into Heathcliff. When Heathcliff finally expresses what really is on his mind, he loses more than he is prepared to handle.

Another award-winning film at this year’s TTFF (Most Popular Short Film) was the Blood and the Bois, directed by Sigmond Crowswell. The film is a supernatural drama about the restless spirit of a stickfighter; unable to be at peace until his death is avenged. Along the way, both the living and the dead must come to terms with wounds inflicted by the previous generation, before arriving at a place of healing and transcendence. The award-winning films were all produced by students of UWT’s MA in Film Programme.

The previous edition of Reel Trini showcased “Trini Animation from the early 21st century” and launched its regular fortnightly screenings.

Award-winning films at Trevor’s Edge

Featured animation works were selected by Camille Selvon Abrahams. Selvon Abrahams, founder of Animas Caribbe, the Caribbean’s first animation and new media festival, and Roger McCollins, who continues to anchor the teaching of animation at UW’s Centre for the Creative & Festive Arts, where he once combined forces with Selvon Abrahams and Yao Ramasar.

During that period, over one hundred animated works were created by students in the programme, screening locally and internationally. The showcased works were all indigenous productions, drawn from the fertile first decade of a new century that has seen a mini revolution of the art form in T&T, with talents like Matthew Hudson and Eason Sattar coming to the fore. Several of the animators were present and the Q&A session was spirited. Among those in the house were Atif Khan, Mohammad Mawalkal, Dean Arden, Edmund Atten, Roger Alesis, Nicholas Attin, Dr Jean Antoine and Sigmond Crowswell.

This evening’s edition of Reel Trini takes place at Trevor’s Edge in St Augustine at 5pm. Admission is free.

COMING NEXT

Look out for Reel Trini, no 9

For more info, visit Reel Trini on Facebook or call 766-9995 (e-mail caribbeanimation@gmail.com)

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