

Santa Barbara International Film Festivalâ??s Michael Albright Moderates Documentary Filmmakers Seminar

Description



The Santa Barbara International Film Festival (SBIFF) Film Studies Program filled the Engels and Vo
February 8th with Social Justice Documentaries.

SBIFF Programming Director, Michael Albright, a Santa Barbara City College Associate Film Studies Professor of Documentary Film, moderated a widely diverse, yet talented panel of documentary filmmakers this morning at the Engels and Volkers Pavilion as part of the SBIFF *Free Admission Filmmakers Seminars before an audience including many students in the Santa Barbara City College Film Studies Film Festival Course and several participants from the SBIFF Film Studies Program as well as a throng of Santa Barbara community filmmakers.

The panel was comprised of Jeff Bowden, Executive Producer, *A Single Frame; J*effrey Brown, Producer/Director*, Vinyl Generation;* Lilibet Foster, Director, Writer, Producer, *Be Here Now (The Andy Whitfield Story)*; Laura Gabbert, Director, *City of God*; and, Leanne Pooley, Director, *25 April.* The films are screening during the festival. Visit the festival site for a complete, up-to-date film schedule: http://sbiff.org/

Albright introduced the participants to the audience and proceeded to politely ask the panel members to introduce themselves respectively. Jeff Bowden started revealing the inspiration behind his film â?? a photograph given to him by his daughter. It wasnâ??t just a photograph, however. The photo was hanging in a War Photo Limited gallery in Dubrovnik, Croatia when War Photo was exhibiting work by

female photographers. Among the cataclysmic cover photos of bombed out buildings and incinerated automobiles was the face of an Albanian boy with an expression Bowden has carried with him ever since. In an effort to uncover the boyâ??s identity, Bowden embarked upon a journey that has inckuded six trips to Kosovo and has culminated in *A Single Frame.*

Next, Jeffrey Brown, a veteran filmmaker with over 20 films including a number of award-winning global features and documentaries. His latest work *Vinyl Generation,* examines the influence a renewed interest in vinyl LPâ??s had on Czech Generation X during the 1980â??s.

Picking it up, Academy Award Nominated and multi-award winning filmmaker Lilibet Foster captured the moment as she shared her emotional, heartfelt journey in capturing the wrenching saga, *Be Here Now (The Andy Whitfield Story)*.

Not one to sit idly by, Laura Gabbert, grabbed a hold of the microphone and mesmerized the audience with her shot description showcasing the City of Angels â?? Los Angeles, California â?? in *City of God*, her expose of flamboyantly Old World, Pulitzer Prize winning food critic, Jonathan Gold. The film premiered at Sundance 2015 and was picked up by IFC/Sundance Selects and is slated for a March 2016 theatrical release. Also, Gabbert received her MFA from the UCLA School of Theater, Television and Film.

Wrapping up the introductions was Leanne Poooley, a New Zealand filmmaker with over 20 films under her belt including her the recent *25 April,* an animated excursion into a retelling of the bloody and ill-fated Gallipoli campaign form the annals of World War I.

Seemingly, such an extraordinary self-described introduction would have been satisfactorily enough for most audiences. Albright, however, with a keen sense of his audience demographic, peppered the panel with intelligent questions to draw out the inner workings of these successful, highly charged filmmakers. For example, how do you as filmmakers balance creativity with financial realities? It appeared as though a strong illumination surrounded the group as the response button was activated immediately after the question left Albrightâ??s lips. Answers varied from panelist to panelist eventually segueing into narrative structure, storytelling versus topical material, film distribution channels, production, post-production and the ensuing miracle inherent to the magic of filmmaking. And, what started out as a Filmmaking Seminar on Documentary Film morphed into a master filmmaking class running the gamut from the inspirational spark to finished product. Stay tuned!

Until next timeâ?¦Iâ??ll see you at the movies.

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2. Uncategorized

Tags

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