

Cape May Film Festival Preview

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A Review by
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About a month from now the city will be bustling with filmmakers, writers, and actors as the annual Cape May Film Festival begins. Voted the best film festival in New Jersey, each year we select new and unique films to have their premiere right here in Cape May. While the selection process is still under way (the deadline has been extended until Oct. 31st), we at Movie Spin want to give you a little preview of some of the films that will be featured this year.

Hollywood Henry's picks:

For all of your documentary fans out there, I highly recommend checking out Strongman by filmmaker Zach Levy. The film follows Stanless Steel, billed as the strongest man in the world at bending steel. He power lifts trucks with his legs and can bend pennies with his fingers. But as strong as Stan is physically, he also struggles with personal relationships, aging, and the uncertain future. Having won the Grand Jury prize at the Slamdance Film Festival recently, definitely try to catch this one when it screens.

Now, for a different type of documentary, make sure you see The Triumph of William Henry Harrison, directed by Daniel Califf-Glick. At the screening I was laughing out loud. Yes, you read that correct, I was laughing out loud at a film about William Henry Harrison. Without giving too much away, if you are a fan of Christopher Guest and movies such as Spinal Tap, or if you ever wanted to know what a "mockumentary" is, check out this very smart and well-done film.

Sundance Sims' picks:

What I'm hoping will become one of the centerpiece films for the weekend is a documentary about legendary jazz guitarist, Pat Martino. The film, "Unstrung" follows Martino on his road to recovery after a brain injury. Supported by such musical legends as the recently deceased Les Paul, Carlos Santana, and Pete Townsend, the film is a moving tribute to the human will to survive. Beyond that, we've got a special video tribute to Bob Prosky from Oscar-nominated director Michael Mann. John Prosky and a video crew visited Mr. Mann at his studio in L.A. a couple of weeks ago, and the subsequent message will be screened at the Festival.

There are also a host of great short films that will be essential viewing at this year's Festival, so be on the lookout for "And One for the Organizer," a masterful tale of suspense, and a handful of animated shorts as well. Check our website often for updates about the official selections for this year's Festival.

Speaking of tales of suspense, watch in next week's edition for Henry and Sims take on their favorite films for the Halloween season!