

# Take a Trip to District 9 – and Chelsea?

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A Review by  
Andrew Henry, Instructor  
Tom Sims, Executive Director  
Cape May Film Society  
609-884-6700  
[capemayfilm@hotmail.com](mailto:capemayfilm@hotmail.com)  
[www.capemayfilm.org](http://www.capemayfilm.org)

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End of summer movie openings are usually reserved for flicks the studios are trying to clean off their shelves while they prepare for the upcoming awards-season, but every once in a while, something new and brilliant sneaks into cinemas. This is the case with District 9, a not-too-thinly veiled parable on apartheid, as well as life in a post-apartheid world. But instead of segregation by race, we have segregation between humans and aliens. The film follows Wilkus, a field agent who oversees the relocation of a million aliens from the ghetto where they have been forced to live, to a new, government sponsored camp. Of course, he is met with opposition, and Wilkus slowly begins to see the persecution the aliens have had to deal with during their time on earth.

Produced by Peter Jackson and directed by Neil Blomkamp, the film really belongs to first-time actor Sharlto Copley in the role of Wilkus, who successfully engages the audience in this eye-opening journey. Also innovative is that the first 45 minutes of the story is told in a mock documentary format, using news footage, security cameras and interviews. The documentary style slowly disappears and we are given a straight narrative film, but the transition is seamless and takes nothing away from the experience.

So moviegoers, all is not lost come end of summer; for something original and fun, Hollywood Henry recommends District 9

Response from Sundance Sims: Convinced that this film is being very well received (noting a great score from IMDB.com voters) but not so convinced that Peter Jackson needs my ticket money to boost his net worth in Hollywood, I ventured outside District 9 to another area of town, namely the Chelsea section of Manhattan. There, the Visual Arts Theater played host to an advanced screening of a new indie film partly set right here in Cape May.

The film is entitled “Sneakers and Soul” and that tells the story of two friends making their way by foot to Brooklyn. This film is a tribute to the hard work of a relatively green crew of actors as well as writer/director Jonathan Zelenak, son of Cape May Elementary School's Superintendent Victoria Zelenak. Much of the film was shot in our region and it looks great (as do some of our favorite citizens in one scene!). We are working with Jon to bring the film to Cape May for an advanced screening (you'll hear about it when we do).

“Movie Spin,” is sponsored by the Cape May Film Society ([www.capemayfilm.org](http://www.capemayfilm.org)). Andrew Henry is a filmmaker and graduate of the Tisch School of the Arts at NYU  
Tom Sims is a filmmaker and Executive Director of the Cape May Film Society.