

## “See What I’m Saying” and “The Square”

Review by Tom Sims

It’s a busy time of year for movies. Sure we’re gearing up for Hollywood’s summer hits, but the spring is also a time for great indie films that you won’t catch in a theater near you but rather maybe at a Festival near you! And we’re working to bring this film to Cape May for a special screening. “See What I’m Saying” is a documentary that follows four lives of deaf entertainers. One is a comic, the second an actor, the third a singer, and the fourth is a drummer in a band with a name you won’t soon forget, “Beethoven’s Nightmare.”

The film has taken awards at the prestigious Newport Beach Film Festival as well as Philadelphia Film Festival and several others. After it had its Hollywood premiere, it screened at New York City’s Village East Cinema where I had a chance to speak with Producer/Director Hilari Scarl. She was thrilled with the success of the Film so far, and she hoped to screen it in Cape May this fall with the help of Gayle and Lee from East Lynne Theater (who I must thank for letting me know about the screening!).

“See What I’m Saying” showcases a side to the entertainment industry you’ve probably never seen and will not be able to forget. The film shows the trials and triumphs of these extremely talented performers. Their goal is to have an audience with a “hearing” public, or land the part in role not created specifically for a deaf person. The results are sometimes disappointing, sometimes glorious, but always deeply moving. For more information, visit <http://www.seewhatimsayingmovie.com>.

“The Square” is receiving a surprising level of press considering it is a low budget aussie-indie. It’s billed as a modern film noir with the story of a man whose life gets very complicated when his mistress brings him a bag of dirty money. It has all the makings of Coen Brothers classic—indeed the two brothers who wrote and directed the film are being compared to Joel and Ethan—but somehow by the end you’re not in love with any one character on the screen. You end up sort of caring about the lead character by default, and at that you’re barely happy to see who survives the clichéd “Mexican stand off” at the end (yes, an Australian movie with a Mexican standoff).

The movie is getting some awards (especially in its home country), and some critics are raving about it! Some audiences are too! So you may want to see it and let me know if I’ve got it all wrong. Because here’s my take: there’s no chemistry between the lead actor and his mistress (and I expect no less than a Mitchum-Greer combo as in “Out of the Past”), and as the main character’s life unravels so does plot.