

# Retrospective of Canadian shorts week's best

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## FESTIVAL FESTIVALS

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by Sherilynn Fenn's (Twin Peaks) truly awful performance. However, Ray Walston and Joe Morton contribute great character bits, and Malkovich is spectacular, never letting us see the bitter intelligence that has been a hallmark of his film roles. The Mark Isham score is great. — JH

**VISIONS OF LIGHT: THE ART OF CINEMATOGRAPHY**, D: Arnold Glassman, Todd McCarthy, Stuart Samuels. USA. CWC. Rating: **NNNN** Uptown, 6:30 pm. Also Sept. 19, 6:30 pm.

This cleverly structured documentary brings audiences into the distinguished company of 26 leading American cinematographers discussing their work and that of their predecessors. Combined with well-chosen excerpts from over 100 movies and respecting all the

**IN THE SOUP**, D: Alexandre Rockwell w/ Steve Buscemi, Seymour Cassel. USA. CWC. Rating: **NNN** Uptown, 3:45 pm.

Rockwell's quirky black-and-white comedy concerns a young NY filmmaker (Buscemi), whose craving to make a movie has him resorting to crime with his "producer," a wily, fun-loving crook (Cassel).

A funny, offbeat script is admirably served by an eclectic cast — Jennifer Beals as a hispanic restaurant server, Will Patton as a hilarious hemophiliac psycho and cameos by Jim Jarmusch and Carol Kane. Rockwell's obvious affection for the down-but-not-out lifestyle of a struggling filmmaker makes this small movie a fitting choice for festival viewing. — IR

**HYENAS**, D: Djibril Diop Mambety. Senegal. CWC. Rating: **NNN** Uptown, 6:30 pm. Also Sept. 19, 9:45 pm.

One of the year's more improbable films, this is an adaptation of Friedrich Dürrenmatt's anti-Nazi allegory, *The Visit*, transposed from Europe to a village on the edge of the Sahara. The real improbability is that it works, less as allegory than

as a human drama of a now-wealthy woman who returns home to gain revenge on the man who impregnated her decades ago.

With superb acting and fascinating desert settings, Hyenas overcomes its occasional longeurs to succeed as compelling human drama. Then again, as a white Western observer, I wonder what this text means to an African audience. — JH

**DAVID ROCHE TALKS TO YOU ABOUT LOVE**, D: Jeremy Podeswa. **TEN CENTS A DANCE (PARALAX)**, D: Midi Onodera. **INSIDE/OUT**, D: Lori Spring. Rating: **NNNNN** CANADA. Cumberland, 6 pm. Also Sept. 19, 10 am.



This is the jewel in the crown of the CFMDC retrospective, a set of fascinating film's about contemporary relationships. *Ten Cents A Dance*, particularly, a corrosive study of the difference between sex and love, is one of the finest short films ever produced in Canada, and makes one wonder why Midi Onodera is not far better known. — JH

**STEPPING RAZOR — RED X**, D: Nicholas Campbell. CANADA. Rating: **NN** Varsity, 9:30 pm. Also Cumberland, Sept. 19, 11 am.

Campbell (star of TV's *Diamonds*) makes his feature film directorial debut with this telling documentary on the troubled life of reggae star Peter Tosh. Relying on Tosh's private tape-recorded diaries, made just months before his brutal murder, interviews and concert footage, Campbell reveals a man obsessed with evil spirits, death and drugs. Though the film is somewhat repetitive and rough around the edges, fans of the rebellious musician should enjoy it. — IR

**TETSUO II: BODY HAMMER**, D: Shinya Tsukamoto. Japan. MM. Rating: **NNN** Bloor, midnight. Also Varsity, Sept. 19, 2 pm.

This is, obviously, a sequel to the low-tech cyberpunk *Tetsuo* (Iron Man), which realized the dream of Italian futurist poet Marinetti, who saw in the slaughter of the first world war the "longed for metallization of the human body." *Tetsuo II* is a barely coherent, formally outrageous splatter action horror flick, in which the reluctant

superhero's body keeps erupting with the latest in prosthetic weaponry. This one works towards an explanation of Iron Man's origins.

What can I say? Judging from its entries in this year's festival, Japan's image as a class-ridden economic dynamo powered by interchangeable salaried men in dark suits is not completely true. Japan's art indicates that it is a country in deep need of therapy. — JH

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19**

**CLOSE TO EDEN**, D: Nikita Mikhailov w/ Badema, Bayaertu. Mongolia/Russia/France. CWC. Rating: **NNN** Uptown, 8:45 pm.

In the steppes of northern China, a traditional Mongolian herdsman and a stranded Soviet trucker travel to the city where the shepherd is confronted with the ever-increasing modernization of his life. Buying a bicycle and a television rather than much needed condoms (his family of five is already illegal), the urban adventures of the shepherd are offset with the timeless beauty and grand vistas of his grassy home. A moving film chronicling a disappearing culture. — IR ●