



The DAILY

CIFF DAY 8 / WEDNESDAY / 3.26.2014

Music has always been a central part of “The Winding Stream” director Beth Harrington’s life.

“I’m a musician myself,” she says. “I sang in rock’n’roll bands for years.” Her love of music, and music history, led her to the creation of “Welcome to the Club: The Women of Rockabilly.”

“While I was working on it, I met all these women who talked about their influences, and the Carters kept coming up.”

The coincidences kept building as Roseanne Cash came on board to narrate the documentary. “I was aware of the connection between Johnny Cash and June Carter, and this original Carter family that goes back to the 1920s, and I thought, ‘Gee, no one’s really told that whole story.’”

Harrington decided that a documentary about the Carters would be her next project, and planned to contact Roseanne Cash about it once “Welcome to the Club” was finished, but Roseanne emailed her before she could do so. She had been vacationing with her family and had realized that she knew the perfect person to tell their story.

“She said, ‘Beth should be down here making a film about this.’” The invitation was exactly what Harrington had hoped for, and soon she found herself filming Johnny Cash in one of his final interviews before his death in 2003.

“Johnny Cash, I’d always known about and loved. But the Carters were just a set of figures where I didn’t think I had internalized their music.” Although she knew some Carter

songs, she had no idea just how ubiquitous their music was within American identity. “I didn’t know them in the way I know Beatles music, but when I got to know the music, I realized, ‘Oh my god, this is in everything.’” Their body of work was “almost like an encyclopedia of American music.”

Harrington, who has worked on award-winning shows like NOVA and Frontline, has three themes that tend to run through all of her work: music, American culture, and—surprisingly—religion.

“I keep seeing it pop up. That’s a common thread that I don’t even expect,” she marvels. The religious and spiritual identities of different American groups fascinate her and frequently become a fundamental part of her examination of the diversity of American identity.

The Carters, in particular, intrigue her for the way their songs often trip off of

the lips of people who have never consciously heard of them. “We might even think we don’t know who they are, but when we say ‘keep on the sunny side,’ or ‘will the circle be unbroken,’ people know those songs,” she points out. Now, people can know the family behind the songs as well.

—Lara Klaber



Photo: Naneaika Morgan

Beth Harrington was a member of Jonathan Richman’s protopunk band, The Modern Lovers.

The BUZZ

The Buzz is your source for the latest festival highlights and best bets for films each day. You can also catch “The Buzz” video program with Meaghan Earley on Facebook or YouTube. For more information visit www.clevelandfilm.org/social.

WHAT’S BUZZING AT THE 38TH CIFF Wednesday, March 26, 2014; Day 8:

Journey into the heart of Estonia at 9:15 a.m. for “Love is Blind.” When a postal worker falls in love with her village’s most disreputable citizen, she must learn to fight to keep the happiness they have found together.

Join a young Russian man on his quest for “A Long and Happy Life” at 11:50 a.m. Sasha thinks buying a small farm will let him lead a simple life, until he finds himself at odds with the local government.

Travel around the world at 2:10 p.m., as we screen Shorts Program 11, featuring a mix of animation, live action and documentary from France, Spain, Canada, the United Kingdom and the United States.

A cold-blooded killer gets a second chance at life at 4:20 p.m., when we screen “Resurrection of a Bastard.”

Travel back to Cold War Germany at 6:25 p.m. with “West.” A widow and her son manage to defect to West Germany, but the mysteries surrounding her husband’s death put their lives in danger.

Join us for “A Will for the Woods” at 9:15 p.m. Follow a terminally ill psychiatrist’s investigations into green burials.

Find out the latest information about these films and other festival events by picking up *The Daily*, reading the festival website and, of course, seeing as many films as you can.

SHOWING TONIGHT AT THE CEDAR LEE THEATRE

CIFF returns to its original home (1977-1990) for the ninth consecutive year. This event is presented in loving memory of Rick Whitbeck (1946-2008). One of the founders of the Film Festival, Rick filled many staff roles over the years and served as the organization’s first Board President.

THE WINDING STREAM is playing today at 7:00 p.m.

WALTZ FOR MONICA is playing today at 9:15 p.m.



Festival Updates

Added Screenings:

Friday March 28th

The Verdict 9:00 pm

Saturday March 29th

Waltz for Monica 9:10 am

Gore Vidal: The United States of Amnesia 11:25 am

Sunday March 30th

The Yank 9:40 am

Antarctica: A Year on Ice 11:45 am

The Sax Man 4:45 pm

Late Additions:

Saturday March 29th

Last Days in Vietnam 12:45 pm

To Be Takei 3:00 pm

Sunday March 30th

Last Days in Vietnam 3:45 pm

To Be Takei 5:00 pm

Check for the latest festival updates on Twitter or Facebook. Or visit www.clevelandfilm.org/festival/updates

Finding Perspective

Focus on Filmmakers award winner, Michelle Ehlen, wears many different hats in her feature film, "Heterosexual Jill." She not only plays a leading role in the film, Ehlen also wrote, directed, produced and edited it.

"I love doing all the various roles," she says, "and, honestly, for me it's more fun than difficult." Ehlen says she enjoys directing herself because she is in control and can do whatever she chooses. As the editor, she can review the footage "with a more critical eye."

"Heterosexual Jill" is inspired by Ehlen's first feature film, "Butch Jamie." "Butch Jamie" has many of the same characters as this movie, so it was really an interest in exploring these characters and their relationships further," says Ehlen.

"Butch Jamie" concentrates on gender issues, whereas "Heterosexual Jill" takes a deeper look at sexuality, Ehlen explains. The protagonist, Jill, thinks Jamie is a man, but when she finds out the truth, they have an affair anyway.

"The film looks at sexuality as existing on a continuum and capitalizes on the humor that arises from an over-attachment to one's identity and what it's supposed to mean," she says.

Ehlen plays Jamie, whom, Ehlen says, "is a dyed-in-the-wool butch lesbian" who eventually "starts having a crisis after she dreams about men." Jill, on the other hand, struggles with something completely opposite: "she would love to dream about men but she isn't."

Playing with these ideas of identity and sexuality, "Heterosexual Jill" questions what it means to be hetero, homo, bisexual, you name it.



Michelle Ehlen's performance in "Butch Jamie" earned her a Best Actress Award at the 2007 Outfest Film Festival.

"The main idea for me is that sometimes the way we think of ourselves clouds the reality of who we are," says Ehlen. "Identity is both the way we understand ourselves and the way we misunderstand ourselves."

Audiences will find "Heterosexual Jill" fun and entertaining, but are sure to see past the surface of the film. "Beyond being queer or not being queer," Ehlen says, "it's all about perspective on who we think we are and who we think we should be." —Molly Drake

SHOWING TODAY

HETEROSEXUAL JILL

is playing today at 8:45 p.m.

Challenge Match

The Challenge Match is the CIFF's annual fundraising campaign, and the only time of the year that we ask for your support (we do not send out solicitation letters at any time). The challenge to you - our audience - is to raise \$100,000, which will be matched by Cuyahoga Arts & Culture.

We are \$54,300 closer to reaching our goal of \$100,000

A \$10 DONATION QUALIFIES YOU FOR ONE OF THESE FABULOUS PRIZES!!

CINEMA PARADISO: Indulge in unlimited movies for the rest of the year at any of their locations with a Cleveland Cinemas Season Pass!

THE HUNGER GAMES - EAST: Indulge in a meal out each month with lunch or dinner at 12 area restaurants (including: Edwin's, Lopez, BD Mongolian, Melt, Tommy's and more!) plus a subscription to EDIBLE CLEVELAND.

A NIGHT AT THE RITZ: Enjoy a relaxing Sunday with a night at The Ritz-Carlton, Cleveland! Included in the package are overnight accommodations, unlimited in-room movies, a \$50 in-room dining credit and more.

Stop by the Challenge Match table in the Tower City Cinemas lobby to donate.



Photo: Peter Bruce



Photo: Laura Waitilo Blake

THE HOME FOR STORIES

TOP: "Life Inside Out" director Jill D'Agnenica, "One Armed Man" director Tim Guinee and Marielle Woods of "My Heart" get together after Shorts Program 9. BOTTOM: Jeremy Kaplan, Brian Wilson, Tony Hale and Amy Browne of "A Will for the Woods."

UNITED Official Airline of the 38th CIFF

The Cleveland International Film Festival receives public support with local tax dollars from Cuyahoga Arts & Culture, to preserve and enrich our region's artistic and cultural heritage.

THE DAILY ONLINE

The Daily hasn't shrunk; it's online. Read exclusive content that's not available in the print edition by visiting The Daily online edition at www.clevelandfilm.org/festival/the-daily.

TODAY'S ONLINE VERSION INCLUDES:

- **The Last One** (Playing today at 6:15 p.m.) Director Nadine Licostie talks about her experience making this documentary about the historic AIDS Memorial Quilt.
- **Before the Revolution** (Playing today at 7:20 p.m.) Filmmaker Dan Shadur talks about his film, which illustrates the life of an Israeli in a controversial era.
- **FilmSlam** An interview with high school filmmaker Geoffrey James whose short film, "Check, Please," was screened as part of the FilmSlam program.