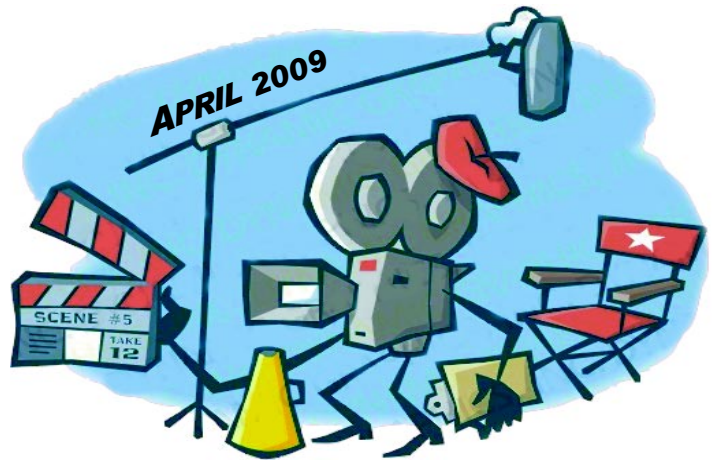




REEL NEWS

For more info write to Hamilton Video/Film Makers
3 Wardrobe Avenue South, Stoney Creek, ON L8G 1R9
Tel: 905-662-4406 • Check our Website at hvfm.ca



It's Past . . . so live with it.

If you missed the March 2009 HV/FM meeting..... well, live with it. My writing about what we watched and trying to recount what was said will not make your life any more enjoyable. If you want to get the full excitement of a Hamilton video club meeting you will have to be there. No excuses.

So what did you miss? Well Jon Soyka took Harold's beginners class as Harold and Mary were off on another of one of their world wide jaunts (I think it was either penguin watching in Antarctica or motorcycle spotting in downtown Moosejaw, or something like that). The main conversation of the class hinged around the value of various members RRSP's and the future of the financial world and I think at one point someone brought up something about High Definition cameras.

For the main meeting Jon provided some tidbits of information about lengthy films stuffed in between the main course of club presentations. First up was Rick Doelle and his presentation of "Bonaire Diving". The five minute glimpse of underwater diving begged questions such as "Where is Bonaire?", "Was this shot in an aquarium?" and "Why did you not get shots of a Great White ripping off the leg of one of the divers?". This was part of a longer production that was designed for the divers. *The group were then asked to name the worlds longest running film. It is "The Cure for Insomnia" running in at 87 hours.* The second showing of the evening was "The Immigrant" by Alex Sztatmary. It is based on the letter writing of a new immigrant to life in Windsor, Ontario. At eight minutes it was a humorous look at our life through the eyes of a newcomer. I particularly liked the comment that the immigrant was going to take a course in anger management so he could get

a job as an angry manager. The combination of a European gentleman talking in a slight Indian accent while dreaming of riding camels in the desert to the Kielbasa sausage stand brought tears of recognition to many of the club members. *"Resan (The Journey)" turned out to be the second longest film at 14 1/2 hours.*

Number three on the viewing calendar was "Spare Change" by the artist known as JR. (real name is John Stultz JR.) JR.'s short came in at 2:30 minutes and was done in one take. Lighting problems prevented some people from getting the joke the first time, but on further discussion it all became apparent. A quirky little film that got some of the creative grey cells thinking. "RBG Bugs" by Barron Thompson came in at number four that evening. Barron was trying out his new camera and its various sound settings at a show of insect critters at the world renown RBG horticultural centre. We can expect further experimental films from Barron at future meetings. *"Shoah" is a 1985 documentary film that came in at nine hours.*

Just before the break we watched a Robert Prince production called "Good Trade". Robert is proving to be a very prolific film maker who revels in putting together short productions under ten minutes (this one came in at 7:32) that he shoots in one day and then edits and has ready for the next club meeting. Each of his entries has produced a plethora of comments and critiques with a very wide range of viewpoints, yet everyone is very happy to see him producing. Another three or four people producing works like this each month and our club would be the envy of all clubs in the world. At least that is my opinion. This film involved gangsters and satan and special effects and amateur actors and in the starring roll... Roberts basement work area.

***Meetings held the first Thursday every month at the
Royal Canadian Legion Hall – 12 King St. E., Stoney Creek
Videomaking Basics – 7:00 p.m., Regular Meeting – 7:30 p.m.***

At this point we were all exhausted from watching and talking so we took a twenty minute coffee and donuts break. I would like to take this point now to make a commercial appeal for funds from the membership. The ability to pay for our hall rental and supplies for the refreshments come directly from your donations to the coffee plate and the 50/50 draw. Save up your pennies and nickels and toonies each month and pass them on to the club funds so that we can continue to supply you with the nourishment that you need to watch and critique club films. End of commercial.

For the second half we did a "Double Take", or at least we watched a film with that name provided by our resident country boy, technical enthusiast, product testing, prolific e-mailer John Cook. This was a look at a pair of prancing horses (NOTE: do not send me an e-mail saying that they were not prancing or whatever they were doing because I am from the city and do not have anything to do with horses except for the occasional flutter on them at Flamborough) that were chased around the ring by a very fit and thin young lady who could never run fast enough to catch them or manage to make them stop so she could get on and get a ride around the circle. John was experimenting with his high definition camera.

The 1968 Soviet made film "War and Peace" came in at eight hours. Thankfully it was just on our list of long films and we did not have to watch it all at the club meeting. However we did watch Dan Copeland's production in HD on a regular DVD of his "Blue Ray Demo". It was various shots of the Mardi Gras celebration parade shot in HD on the streets of Hamilton. At 5 1/2 hours in length the silent film "Napoleon" would have kept us there past midnight so instead we watched Rick Gaunt's recording of "Steamshow 08". Ten minutes in length and an equal time in critique mode, the production was a recording of a public event but included some special effects such as running the video backward. This made it a 'make work' project as the steam shovel took the dirt out of the ground and put it in a dump truck that then drove in a circle so that the steam shovel could take the dirt out of the truck and put it back on the ground. At this point we were all confuzzed so we had a 50/50 draw and then when home, except for those who went to Crabby Joes for the third part of the meeting where we unfuzz our brains with beer and wings.

(Kudos to Brad Wheeler for the list which was stolen from, I believe, The National Post.)



Annual Business Meeting

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Nominations for our executive have been received for the following members:

MARY COSGROVE **JIM SMALL** **DAVE STEWART**

Further nominations, if any, should be mailed to **Ralph Trouten**
58 MacLennan Ave., Hamilton, ON L8V 1X4, given to Ralph before
the April Business meeting or phone **905-385-5127** and leave a message.



What's Up next - Doc

The April meeting will not be for fools as it is our annual AGM. Led by our lord of the records and archives, that titan of talking, a veritable vote volunteer, the master of all that is ceremonial in our club.... Ralph Trouten. Ralph, as usual will entertain the madding crowd with enthralling excerpts from "The Secretary's Tales", gripping numbers from "The Archives of Membership" and of course the story everyone wants to hear, "The Totality of Numbers as recorded by The Accountant". Don't miss it. As the assembled crowd lays exhausted in their seats from all of this heady excitement Mr. Trouten will then deliver his coup de grace, the legally binding election of the club executive and the announcement of the name of the individual who will lead the mass known as the HV/FM into the darkness of the next twelve months. Ralph will then return to his seat at the back where he will keep watch over his flock till he is asked again next April to come forth and preside over the legal requirements of this great entity. On behalf of all of the members I would like to thank Mr. Ralph Trouten for his steadfastness, dexterity, single mindedness and skill with which he handles the requirements of this position. I am also happy to report that Ralph will be around for many more years to come doing this most important job as I do not believe he has started training the youngster who will inherit "the power" upon Ralph's retirement.

Sunday April 19th, 2009 will be the day that the good citizens of the Town of Simcoe, not far from that Heaven of Motorcycles, Port Dover, march enmass to support the MS WALK. The central meeting point is at Holy Trinity Catholic High School which is at 128 Evergreen Hill Road in Simcoe. Registration is at 8:30 a.m., the walk starts at 10:00 a.m. and most of it will be over by about noon. Jon Soyka will be going to it and would like to fill his van with young females with red hair but is prepared to accept older balding club members, except for the women who will not be balding. His van will be leaving Hamilton Mountain at around 7:30 a.m. and can hold up to six other club members with cameras and tripods. It will be a teaching and learning experience as well as good for the soul. Think about it. Requirements are **1.** a working camera, **2.** at least one blank tape, **3.** a fully charged battery and **4.** a willingness to help out club members Evelyn & Nestor Rosa in their annual volunteer production for this good cause. Those who cannot assist will be encouraged to sign up for financial donations that can be passed on via Evelyn or to support a walker.

I do not have a clue as to what is happening otherwise at the next meeting so just show up and feel the excitement. As they say at Bay Bloor Radio "if you miss it, you miss it".

Regards
Jon Soyka

