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May 2, 2008

Short Takes: The Michael Moore pick

Festival goers spotted documentarian Michael Moore nipping into yesterday afternoon's screening of "Bitter & Twisted." Unless we're missing a connection between Moore and Aussie filmmaker Christopher Weekes, he was there because of the phenomenal buzz the film has already generated at the festival.



David Patkin

The slice-of-life tale peers in at the Lombard family, a group of suburbanites changed forever by the death of their son. In the three years since, Mr. Lombard has developed an eating disorder, a menopausal Mrs. Lombard has become obsessed with the idea of another pregnancy and remaining son, Ben (played by Weekes), can't decide if he's gay or has a crush on his dead brother's ex-girlfriend.

Weekes wrote the first draft of the script when he was a 20 years old and filmed "Bitter & Twisted" at 24 in the suburbs of Sydney for just about \$200,000 -- a drop in the Hollywood bucket, in budget terms. He and his talented cast are winning this one audience acclaim.

"Bitter & Twisted" plays Saturday at 8:15 p.m. at Village East Cinema, screen 3, 181 Second Avenue, and Sunday at 5:15 p.m. at Village East Cinema, screen 7.

By Patrick Huguenin on May 2, 2008 9:40 AM | [Permalink](#) | [Comments \(0\)](#)

SEAN EVANS



Sean Evans loves film festivals that take place within a \$5 cab ride of his apartment. Last year in Tribeca, he bonded with Ludacris over his Law & Order SVU cameo.

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PATRICK HUGUENIN



Patrick Huguenin loves film festivals that don't involve renting a car and accidentally driving 140 miles in the wrong direction across the Utah tundra. Last year in Tribeca, he hid behind his fingers while Jeffrey Dean Morgan played Russian roulette in "Live!"

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JO PIAZZA



Jo Piazza loves film festivals that don't require airline travel, during which

she is invariably assigned the middle seat. Last year in Tribeca, she tried to get Robert De Niro to do that scene from "Taxi Driver." He refused.

[CONTACT](#)

ELIZABETH WEITZMAN



Elizabeth Weitzman loves film festivals where there's a

chance Jon Bon Jovi may show up. Last year at Tribeca, she had the outstanding experience of watching former Vice President Al Gore sing along to "Livin' on a Prayer."

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