



Winners of the 2020 Top 5 Film Competition

Paul of Brisbane

I always want to be moved when I watch a film – don't mind if it elicits admiration, tears or a belly laugh! *Soufra* and *Adam* also fit the bill, but I chose *Waiting for Mamu*. How could you not be moved by such selflessness and the obvious joy and sense of belonging felt by the 'adopted' children and captured by the film maker?

China Love: the real challenge is how to be brief and pithy when reacting to this film as it is such a rare glimpse into the world of the Chinese people rather than the politics. Saddened by their need to emulate the west when they have such a rich culture; horrified at the expense and the 'killer' attitude of the 'big boss'; fascinated generally, but particularly to see the burden placed on parents who have to supply the apartment for the married couple!

Of all the presentations, *Women of the Island* probably impressed me the most – only partly because I am living in Queensland. I moved to Tasmania from the U.K. in the late seventies and I have always been impressed by women (!), but here we have them in their full glory: outspoken, gifted, creative, resilient, independent; If we needed any evidence for the saga that Tasmania is no backwater, then this is it, and these women are its protagonists.

Monsieur Mayonnaise appealed to my Francophile nature, having lived in Provence and having read much about the French Resistance, but it was not what I expected. What the film managed to do was take me past my initial negative reaction to the often garish and cartoonish artwork, and immerse me in the story and, for want of a better phrase, the human cost.

I would call *Back to Burgundy* a 'quiet gem': the art of storytelling that eschews violence, aggression and hyperbole, but draws you in because of the interplay amongst the characters and, equally, the magnificent settings – never mind the wine. Santé!



Marsha of Melbourne

Thanks very much to you and team for offering your festival online, giving us and other film buffs outside of Tasmania the chance to attend. The pandemic has posed difficult challenges for people in many sectors including the arts. Your creative and generous response of making your festival available online for free was much appreciated.

We watched 5 films - one drama (Adam) and four documentaries (Lili, Soufra, China Love, Monsieur Mayonnaise) Here are brief comments on a few:

Adam - A quiet, intimate film of great emotional depth. Beautifully composed and lit, well directed and acted. I appreciated the film's feminist sensibility, sparse music and dialogue, and empathy for its characters. - Top pick

Lili - affecting and well-crafted documentary that sensitively explores the impact of inter-generational trauma on Lili, her daughters and granddaughters. Recreations in documentary are often too literal or stagey, but these were done with more finesse. The editing and structuring of the story was also very successful in keeping you engaged.

Soufra - this film worked not so much because of craft, though it was well shot and edited, but because the refugee women in it were so resourceful, spunky, and determined. We all can learn from, and be inspired by, such women around the world - their humour, creativity and solidarity, in the face of obstacles.



Helen of Hobart

Here's my top pics:

Expedition To the End of the World: Magnificent landscape, wrapped in an edgy, modern, relevant package. Captured the powerful environment without sentiment. Quirky, interesting, thoughtful conversations from the diverse group. spot on now. yes!

Veins of the World: Swept away with this heartbreaking tale that gently gave us the sad story of the people and exploitation of their glorious traditional lands.

Adam: A beautiful lesson of the joys of life and the choices we must make.

Delfin: Softly showed the hope of a child and resilience of a father and son partnership.

Rogue Waves: A film for us all at the moment in isolation! Showcased spectacular Tas and the importance of the environment as a balm for the soul and a reason to live. A quiet tale of fortitude.

Thank you so much for the opportunity to join the festival online. I have never attended but will look forward to your amazing selections next year.



Don of Launceston

These were my fave five because they remind us:

That one woman can make a difference and change many people's lives. (Soufra).

That rogue waves in our lives should be expected and are not the exception. (Rogue Waves.)

That nature always humbles and inspires us with her beauty, dignity and wildness.
(Okavango.)

That we have much to learn about managing the planet from the land's original inhabitants .
(Wilder than wild.)

That if we take our time with family dynamics, and have a nice drop (or two) of red, we can
sort out any problems.
(Back to Burgundy.)

And special mention to Malcolm, as a good sense of humour will help gets us through
difficult times.



Valerie of Melbourne

Thank you for this brilliant initiative whilst we have been in lockdown. I have really enjoyed all the movies I have watched so it's tricky to decide. I'm submitting my faves.

1. 'Adam' for its delicious sensuality and pathos. Food for thought and food for the soul.
2. 'Of Horses and Men'. I'm still smiling when I think of its quirkiness. Hopefully fiction is stranger than fact!
3. 'Expedition to the end of the world'. Armchair travel at its finest. Brilliant cinematography and I love the Danish take on things.
4. 'Veins of the World'. The macro meets the micro in a finely crafted tale of love and loss.
5. Really hard to choose but I will say 'Delfin' because that talented, innovative young fellow so deserves a break.