

Brush Creek Film Review

Kansas City Public Library - Plaza

Hosts: Buddy Hanson and Leanne Kubicz

Hoopla ☺

FILM LIST

Buddy:

- ***Frida***, Julie Taymor, 2002 (USA)
Drama/bio based on Mexican artists Frida Kahlo and Diego Rivera
- ***Paradise Lost***, Joe Berlinger & Bruce Sinofsky, 1996 (USA)
HBO documentary series focused on the 1993 murders in West Memphis, Arkansas
- ***Tales of the Night***, Michel Ocelot, 1992 (France)
Silhouette stop-motion animation (similar to shadow puppetry)

Leanne:

- ***Ip Man***, (2008) dir. by Wilson Yip – An energetic fictionalized portrait of the early life of Ip Man, a modern master of the martial art of Wing Chung and the teacher of Bruce Lee. The story is told with more action rather than a large amount of blood, lending it to be a real crowd-pleaser.
- ***Outrage*** (2010) dir. by Takeshi Kitano. The works of “Beat” Takeshi Kitano are astonishing in their mastery of cinematic storytelling and brutal, unflinching violence. Beat Takeshi has an incredibly long, distinctly varied, and wildly popular career in Japan spanning decades and crossing an impressive amount of genres. A comedian who rose to fame in the 1970s and later adapted the famous gonzo-style reality game show Takeshi's Castle to great success in the 80s. He is also a gifted actor appearing in Nagisa Oshima's Merry Christmas, Mr. Lawrence, Johnny Mnemonic, and Battle Royale, to name a few. His own films feature austere mannerisms punctuated by intense violence filmed with the utmost refinement and skill.

Outrage is a gangster film by the prolific Japanese director Beat Takeshi which was nominated for the Palme d'Or at Cannes in 2010. This is not a film for the faint of heart; few films reach this level of graphic violence. Though this film is brutal in its portrayal of a yakuza gang war, the absence of any “good guys” lends immediacy to the action that is rarely found in this genre. Beautiful camera work helps to elevate the cruel and merciless actions of the characters and delivers a shocking but engaging film experience.

- ***The Crow***, (1994) dir. By Alex Proyas – Instant-classic adaptation of James O'Barr's graphic novel about a man who returns from the dead to right the wrongs that lead to his and his fiancée's murder. This is the film in which Brandon Lee, rising action star and son of action legend Bruce Lee, was accidentally killed on-set by a faulty prop gun. Despite the tragic death of Brandon Lee, his charisma as an avenging angel continues to draw audiences to this tale of loss and redemption.

CREDITS

- Director of Plaza Library, April Roy
- Manager, Jerena Boyd Bey
- Digital Branch Manager, David LaCrone
- Graphic Designer, Levi Hoffmeier
- Editing, Buddy Hanson and David LaCrone

- Music, Franny Finstrom Clark