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## The Absolute Wisconsin Film Festival 2009 Review Compendium

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Submitted by [Jesse Russell](#) on Fri, 2009-04-10 10:15 [Arts](#) | [Film](#) | [WisFilmFest2009](#)



The 11th Annual [Wisconsin Film Festival](#) has come and gone and we are now left with flickering memories in our minds and an Internet chock full of comments and reviews of a great many of the films that showcased throughout the city. Thanks to the Twitter insurgency this year's fest has been the most commented on in the history of the festival's history. Dane101 has spent the last week collecting all of those Twitter comments and surfing local media and blog sites to create this Absolute Compendium of Wisconsin Film Festival coverage. This compendium collects "reviews" for 66 of the 108 feature length films shown at this year's festival. We hope you can use this information next time you head to the local video store to check out some of the film's at the festival you may have missed. A big thank you to Meg Hamel and all of the volunteers for the hard work and dedication.

### 24 City

[superchung @ Philgm Guy, Not Phlegm Guy](#): "The director mixed real interviews in with actors playing parts, which gave the feeling that every interview was a fake one. I don't think it's wise to ever mix and match—K Street, that HBO series by Steven Soderbergh and George Clooney attempted the same thing with similar effects. "

### 32A

[Kristin Czubkowski @ 77Square](#): "The plot weaves the pieces of many of coming-of-age films together, forming a story that is new but not unfamiliar. Writer and director Marian Quinn occasionally relies on tenuous stereotypes about the lives of young girls, but ultimately gives a serviceably realistic representation of adolescence."

### 500 Days of Summer

[Adam Schabow @ dane101](#): "I was surprised at how good the script was and how visually entertaining the editing and directing of the movie was. It had the feel of "Annie Hall" mixed with a Wes Anderson movie."

[Rob Thomas @ 77 Square](#): "The purest love affair in the film is really between the movies and their audiences."

[Nick Hornby @ his diary](#) (note: he isn't at the fest, just happened to write a blurb about the film this morning): "It's a romantic comedy for younger people, and yet it completely failed to exclude me: it had great jokes, a good soundtrack, terrific performances, a fresh and imaginative sense of visual style, and, unlike just about every romantic comedy I've seen in the last twenty years, it's true."

[L Bolger @ Pause Life, Roll Film.](#): "Let's just say that watching a film sitting next to a group of girls who are discussing how they are going to hook up with the writers and director of the film does not make for a completely pleasant movie-going experience."

[catfeine @ Twitter](#): "Totally enjoyed @500daysofsummer at #wff2009 last night. Clever script kept me surprised & laughing; fun Q&A after."

### Absurdistan

[Rick Stemm @ dane101](#): "...this movie starts and ends with a rocketship, has bare boobs and gun-toting cowgirls, and sends the female protagonist flying on several diverse occasions."

[goldenpartypig @ Twitter](#): "yes, it was absurd, but cute in a way. and funny enough."

### After School

[sweaternine @ twitter](#): "Anomie in teenagers whose attention/souls have been fractured into YouTube-sized bites. Memo to my kids: Stop aging."

## All That Jazz

**Sean @ dane101:** "The majesty of this movie is unparalleled in the past 30 years of musicals; something like Chicago, which helped make Fosse's name the first time around, seems incredibly limp when compared to the energy, mania and, as one friend put it, Martianness of All That Jazz. Even Moulin Rouge! seems a little tepid in comparison."

**mpxl @ twitter:** "Shake my head at its self-indulgence? Marvel at its audacity? Marvel - and roll my eyes at the projection glitches"

**sweaternine @ twitter:** "Fosse's autobiohagiography floored me; brilliantly conceived, despite any cribbing from 8 1/2. Roy Schieder = whoa"

## Anvil: A Story about Anvil

**Nick Bubb @ Ramble On 2.0:** "the first question asked to the UW-Madison alum editor who was at the show, was quite apt: how do you react to people laughing at sad moments? I was quite frustrated that people would laugh at the sad realization that one may not live up to their dreams. After all, these were real people purging their hearts out, and you think it's funny?"

**Adam Schabow @ dane101:** "what surprised me was how little the movie dragged and how touching it was. Even though you are laughing both with them and at them, you root for them."

**Jordan @ dane101:** "If they didn't cling to their innocent, slightly desperate hope that they're still going to "make it" and become rock stars, then there wouldn't really be a movie."

**donges @ Twitter:** "Anvil! the story of Anvil was fantastic last night!!

## Art & Copy

**Jane Burns @ 77Square:** "'Art & Copy,' an entertaining documentary about advertising that showed Thursday night at the Wisconsin Film Festival, makes me either want to smash my satellite dish or drink milk."

## The Beaches of Agnès

**Kristin Thompson @ Observations on Film and Art:** "It's a rambling film and yet somehow all hangs together, with self-deprecating humor, nostalgia, wacky juxtapositions, and moving moments as the director visits old haunts and friends. It was a real crowd-pleaser at the screening I attended, and deservedly so."

**Janie @ Janie In Madison:** "an extremely clever and cute tale told by the famous french director, Agnes Varda. She documents her life and films with brilliant sequences and artsy details."

**Galedawg @ Twitter:** "witty, odd, fun, inspiring."

## The Beetle

**Kris Zimmerman @ The Good, the Bad, and the Wonky:** "...scenes work so well, that the movie feels very cinematic in its style. So much so, I had forgotten that this was a documentary for about 15 minutes."

**slither2 @ slither2** "I loved it! There are a lot of really sweet moments. My chest was all weird feeling several times."

## Between the Folds

**life and puppies:** "a movie about people doing some serious origami. While the designs were truly outstanding, I was more moved by people who are so passionate and loving about something like paper folding."

## Betrayal

**It\_kije @ twitter:** "was a deeply personal story about geopolitical and familial betrayal; moving and quite well done"

## Bunnyland

**lrjbadger @ twitter:** "wow. That was good."

## Cheese Wars

**life and puppies:** "Wisconsin looked so beautiful in this movie — everyone was proud."

## Chef's Special

**khammergren @ twitter:** "little cliched but lots of fun"

## Chuck Close

**Jason Albert @ Decider:** "The formula was enlightening for the first five or six diatribes, but by the end of two hours I wanted to paint a portrait of this movie using my own invented-on-the-spot technique of repeatedly slashing a canvas with a knife."

**mpxl @ twitter:** "Inspirational, moving, full of warm reminiscence by Close & contemporaries about NYC art scene in 1960s-70s"

**Linda Falkenstein @ thedailypage:** "Close transformed and intensified his painting, without sacrificing his themes, after he became paralyzed. This was as thorough an explanation of an artist's work as I've seen on film, illuminating and serious. Maybe too serious."

### **Darius Goes West**

**Janie @ Janie In Madison:** "The relationships formed and the generosity of many involved in this film make it a tender journey to watch."

### **Daytime Drinking**

**superchung @ Philmgeye, Not Phlegm Guy:** "Some of the best scenes were when the camera was simply left far away and didn't move for about 3 to 5 minutes with no cuts at all. I barely even noticed it because of the quality of the acting and the writing. Overall, this is a must-see movie for anyone who loves independent film (though try to ignore my gushing and see it as if you didn't know anything about it). "

**Schabow @ dane101:** Throughout these few days traveling and trapped, he encounters some truly odd individuals. It's kind of like a road trip movie, except without the car and partner to share the experience with.

### **Departures**

**Kristin Thompson @ Observations on film art and Film Art:** Visit Thompson's entry for thoughts on the Q&A after the film with one of the heads of Regent Entertainment Stephen Jarchow.

**Rob Thomas @ 77Square:** "The entire journey is very moving, with some gorgeous cinematography and nicely understated acting from all corners."

### **Earth Days**

**Emily Mills @ Dane101:** "I enjoyed the film, though I thought it lacked some of the clear focus and direction that becomes so necessary when trying to pack a great deal of history into a 100 minute story. But it is a fantastic work of no small amount of import."

**Katjusa Cisar @ 77Square:** "The film fits an awful lot of history into its 100 minutes, spanning the 1930s to the '80s, but mainly focused on the 1960s and '70s. Not surprisingly, it's too much. Despite Stone's careful, crisp editing, it often feels too dense, unfocused and scattered. Instead of focusing on a small bit of history that could convey "the big idea" economically, he tries to pack in too much."

### **Eldorado**

**JessWFF @ Twitter:** "Eldorado was just so-so. That & Kinnunen are tied for my least faves of the fest so far."

**seymouria @ twitter:** "i really liked the music in Eldorado. otherwise, just so-so"

**Adam Schabow @ dane101:** "I liked it, although it was a bit slow at times. The soundtrack to the movie and my fascination with the two characters kept me interested. There were some funny scenes including a naked old man. I left the movie happy that I saw it, but surprised that it was only 90 minutes long."

### **Fear Me Not**

**Janie @ Janie In Madison:** "This is a Danish suspense with excellent acting. Out of the six, this is on the top of my list."

### **Food Inc.**

**Erik @ The Entertainment Shack:** "The movie's biggest points were this: The food industry is run by a very small handful of large corporations, and, Monsanto (I think mentioned negatively in every single anti-corporation documentary I've seen) runs the FDA, and this is all really really really really bad."

**Janie @ Janie In Madison:** "The industrialization of the food business is appalling. And if you can watch that movie and still eat meat, I don't know how."

**goldenpartypig @ Twitter:** "Familiar yes. Brought many concepts together well in wonderfully produced film for all. Great energizer for some of us."

### **Football Under Cover**

**Adam Schabow @ dane101:** "I felt dumb quietly sifting through my schedule and using my cellphone as a tiny flashlight to read if it was truly a documentary or not. I feel dumb writing about this now. I think it was because the women were so natural on screen and the words they spoke had some of the best dialogue I've ever heard on film, that I just assumed it. What popped into their heads and out of their mouths would have made any screenwriter proud if they would have imagined it up themselves."

**life and puppies:** "a neat story about a German women's soccer team that had learned that Iran had its own national women's soccer team, but that the team had never played a match against anyone but themselves. "

**Jason Albert @ Decider:** "mostly I was left with more questions than I went in with. It was a decent movie, but in no way engrossing."

**Regina @ Costly Sentences:** "keep your eyes peeled for it, because it is one of the best movies I've seen all year, and I don't even normally get excited about documentaries."

### Ghajini

**Ropin' Rodeo Nate @ dane101:** "Oh. My. God. Let me rephrase that. OMG! I recently watched "Ghajini" and while I thought it would be fun, it turned out to be the most enjoyable thing I have EVER SEEN IN A THEATER. I have seen a lot of things in a theater. I'm real salty. Still, this was tops."

**Rick Stemm @ dane101:** "Though American audiences won't be used to the genre switching, it's part of what sustains the momentum. Extremely high production values give this the look of a Hollywood blockbuster, though its feel is all its own."

**sinnekall @ twitter:** "was an awesome rollercoaster of a movie, Best film so far! "

**Erik @ The Entertainment Shack:** "it's the first action movie that I've seen in a long time that I've given any care to the characters whatsoever. (Unlike, for example: Transporter) Granted, they were fortunate enough to have 3 hours to do it in... which would never fly with an American action flick. (Transporter is just around 90 minutes) And those 3 hours flew by. There were no slow spots throughout the movie, and I'd totally watch it again, despite its over-the-top music and cinematography. And I mean, over-the-top."

### The Good Soldier

**Jason Albert @ Decider:** "It's hard to imagine watching a more affecting movie than *The Good Soldier* during the festival, because it may be as affecting a movie as I've ever seen."

### Goodbye Solo

**Sean @ dane101:** "the movie is smartly constructed on a scene-by-scene basis -- much of it is way over yonder in a minor key, but dramatically effective all the same. The two lead performances are critical -- Savane is terrific in as Solo, his face an open book that befits the character's unabashedness, and Red West is pretty devastating as William, who carries enough self-possession that you understand both the sorrow and the dignity he feels in his own abnegation."

**Kristin Thompson @ Observations on film art and Film Art:** "Beautifully shot, the film is to Winston-Salem what *Collateral* is to Los Angeles, and the final scene in the autumnal Great Smoky Mountains is gorgeous. It's a moving tale, and one which manages to be emotionally uplifting without falling into the trap of solving all its characters' problems and becoming a feel-good film."

**sweaternine @ twitter:** "Gregarious cabbie vs. lonely oldster ready to end it all. Will joie de vivre carry the day? Lovely; nonpro acting = !!"

### Handmade Nation

**John Wiedenhoft @ Decider :** "Not to marginalize the great interviews with cut paper and calendar artist Nikki McClure and the owners of Little Friends of Printmaking, but when I got into the Union Play Circle the hair on the back of my neck stood up. It seemed like everyone on the screen and in the theater were wearing those glasses."

**Emily Mills @ dane101:** "Overall, the movie is fun, informative, and quite enjoyable. Some of the camerawork is a little rough, darting around to catch as much of the piles of artwork behind the interview subjects as possible without really settling to focus. The sound is occasionally muddy. But these are its only real flaws, and you could make the argument that the film itself is fairly DIY"

**seymouria @ twitter:** "was really cute. Nice to see indie crafters get some recognition. Also, inspiration for my own doc project"

**mpxl @ twitter:** "was very good, showcased some amazing outsider-y arts"

### Harvard Beats Yale, 29-29

**MadKZ @ twitter:** "very good. Crowd had a number of alums from both and some who were at the game depicted in movie"

**Philgm Guy, Not Phlegm Guy:** "I gave this film 3 out of 5, simply because I thought it was way too long, and every time something dramatic was about to happen in the game, the editor would cut to some interview of the players talking about the moment."

### **Idiots and Angels**

**Jason Dean @ dane101:** "I paid extra attention to the scenes I witness earlier, this time with sound. The tweeting of the bird. The groans of the protagonist as the alarm rang. The music that underscored the events. I cannot think of a movie where sound played less of a role than Idiots and Angles – a credit to the animators and director of the film."

**It\_kije @ twitter:** "had interesting bits, but the characterization seemed one-dimensional and story a bit trite"

### **Illegal Use of Joe Zopp**

**aliqu83 @twitter:** "WE LIKE IT HERE! Joe Zopp was too funny.... I would love to put all of my inside jokes on screen and have people laugh too"

**Katjusa Cisar @ 77Square:** "The plot is tortuously convoluted, and the film wears out its welcome with too many twists, especially in the last 20 minutes. After a while, I gave up trying to untangle it and just enjoyed the goofy one-liners."

### **Immortal Cupboard**

**lrjbadger @ twitter:** "despite technical difficulties, a beautiful collage of Lorine Niedecker's life."

**Linda Falkenstein @ thedaily page:** "While not all the collage elements were effective, the film still illuminated new parts of the always enigmatic Niedecker. The audience? The Chazen auditorium wasn't empty, but there were plenty of available seats. This was for a film that won the 2009 Wisconsin's Own Jury Award. Kind of appalling."

### **It Takes A Cult**

**It\_kije @ twitter:** "was fascinating and well-researched (lived?) but not that interesting as film"

### **JCVD**

**L Bolger @ Pause Life, Roll Film:** "What makes this film so absurd, you ask? Well, the most absurd, mind-boggling part of this film is the fact that Jean Claude Van Damme gives an excellent performance. Obviously, there is no one better to play an aging action star, but Van Damme bares all in his performance. He remains completely real even as film becomes more and more surreal."

### **Jerichow**

**Sean @ dane101:** "*Jerichow* is a consummately classical piece of thriller filmmaking, taking one of the most filmed stories of all time and tweaking the plot to find something fresh in it."

**sweaternine @ twitter:** "Suspensefully replotted take on Postman Rings x2, heavy on sympathy for all parties. Sharply composed; classical style."

### **KK Downey**

**It\_kije @ twitter:** "made me laugh, but it got lost a bit in its hip, absurd fantasy land a few times too many"

### **Kisses**

**brettspiel @ twitter:** "moved by foul-mouthed Irish kids discovering the magic of Kisses."

[url=][/url]

### **Lake Tahoe**

**Erik @ The Entertainment Shack:** "It was an alright movie... it's been growing on me the more I reflect upon it. Kinda Napoleon Dynamite-ish. Not in the sense of the humor, but the style of the storytelling."

### **The Last Lullaby**

**Dean Robbins @ thedaily page:** "a skillfully directed mood piece about a couple of loners, but just as you begin to sink into its silences, a shocking outbreak of violence makes you jump in your seat. "

**JessWff @ twitter:** "was great. Say what you will about Tom Sizemore's personal issues, the guy can act."

**It\_kije @ twitter:** "was a cliché thriller/romantic comedy that wished Quentin Tarrantino had written it; not good"

## Light Bulb

**Janie @ Janie In Madison:** "This is supposedly based on a true story of some guys who are down on their jobs, always trying to invent something, lose everything they have, until something finally - well - you get the picture."

## Mermaid

**It\_kije @ twitter:** "the best film i've ever seen at WFF"

## Milk In The Land

**njbubb @ twitter:** "challenged some Wi assumptions and some dude was rude to Meg"

## Momma's Guy

**superchung @ Philmgeye, Not Phlegm Guy:** "The climax is somewhat unbelievable and not convincing for me. It really came down to the main actor who was slovenly and lazy and though realistic, I didn't pull for him at all. He kind of made the bed he was sleeping in so it was hard for me to empathize. Two out of five stars."

## Paper of Plastic?

**hobbulatmodule @ twitter:** "very entertaining documentary, good conversation with the director."

**Schabow @ dane101:** "These are the type of documentaries I love. Average, everyday people excelling at one specific, weird, type of thing...and in this case, bagging groceries."

## Razzle Dazzle: The Lost World

**Kristin Thompson @ Observations on film art and Film Art:** "Jacobs has been doing a lot of experimentation with creating an appearance of 3D using only regular film equipment and still photos, and I for one would have liked to see more of the stereoscope cards and a little less of the play with the Edison shot. But that's just a quibble. It's a fascinating film, well worth seeing."

## Revanche

**Sean @ dane101:** "Most stories grow from one good idea, and my guess is that Spielmann's kernel for Revanche is the offer someone makes Alex around the movie's halfway point, a development that elevates the movie from good to compelling. This is a great kernel, and one that could easily lead to of the cataclysmic, Titus Andronicus ending promised by the title. All the pieces are on the chessboard, and you can feel the dread accumulating every minute that the movie goes on."

**brettspiel @ twitter:** "was enthralled by Revanche's perfect, slow-burn suspense"

**sweaternine @ twitter:** "Thrillingly good. Could have gotten raves w/ a Greek tragedy ending; does something better instead. Perfect storytelling"

**JessWFF @ twitter:** "was very good. I was expecting something bleaker & was pleasantly surprised"

## RR

**It\_kije @ twitter:** "was mesmerizing and slightly absurd; long, static shots of trains forshortening and disappearing in the distance"

**MadKZ @ twitter:** "...was interesting at least 40 ppl left before it was over though-and my son fell asleep!"

## Rhythmic Uprising

**Rob Thomas @ 77Square:** "But director Benjamin Watkins -- who attended the screening with his co-producer and wife, Eliciana Nascimento -- unwittingly hit on the central problem with the film: it's too scattered, with no real narrative thread to hold it together."

**The Rock-afire-Explosion** (shows again on Sunday at 5:45 p.m.)

**JessWFF @ Twitter:** "Rockafire Explosion was also really good. Good conversation w/ other folks beforehand. Great way to wrap up the first night."

**life and puppies:** "the movie was a great reminder of how connected we can all become around something as odd as animatronics. And that human creation can sometimes touch us in such indescribable ways and that those feelings stay with us so much longer than we would have ever expected."

**Ben Munson @ DeciderMadison:** "Drawn together by their deep desire to keep the band operating at any level, they both exhibit the kind of intense dedication that's both admirable and slightly disturbing."

## Secret Sunshine

**LMBolger @ twitter:** "secret sunshine was even better than i had hoped. good choice, me."

**MadKZ @ twitter:** "challenging and beautifully told story coping with hardship and questioning faith acting is great"

## Silent Light

**MadKZ @ twitter:** "was stunningly beautiful and heartbreaking man after said the editor was the problem-could easily have cut 45 min.bah!"

## Somers Town

**brettspiel @ twitter:** "found Somers Town charming, refreshing, favorite film so far."

## Sonic Youth: Sleeping Nights Awake

**Jordan @ dane101:** "The enthusiasm of the filmmakers goes a long way -- it feels like they're excited to be there and the camera often zooms in and stays on small details, like Kim Gordon tapping her high heel -- and it rarely feels amateurish..."

## The Song of Sparrows

**Rick @ dane101:** "This competent but bland cinematography was not necessarily a weak point, though, as the focus here was the story."

## Sparrow

**It\_kije @ twitter:** "was wonderfully choreographed and almost post-linguistic, but too cute for its own good"

**Rob Thomas @ 77Square:** "The plot is pretty thin, as Kei and his thieves try to outwit Fu and his men, with Chun-Lei the femme fatale somewhere in the middle. And To is so enraptured with how his film's visual style that occasionally it's hard to figure out exactly what's going on."

**Sparrow:** "I give To enough credit as a director to know that it all makes sense, but my cinematically exhausted brain just hasn't quite pieced the whole final pickpocket scene together. Unfortunately, discussion amounts to spoilers, so you'll have to see for yourself."

## Stand Up: Muslim American Comics Come Of Age

**Scott Gordon @ Decider:** "It's overall a very brief, punchy look at five comedians, their entrepreneurial willingness to burn up shoelather, and their material—which, yes, involves a lot of jokes about flying, but has plenty else going for it too."

## Strozek

**brettspiel @ twitter:** "was weird, charming, wonderful; can't stop the dancing chicken"

## Summer

**John Wiedenhoeft @ Decider:** "The acting and the story are very compelling, but I found what stood out the most to me was the cinematography. At one point I was playing "find the blue in the scene" which wasn't too tough of a game since most shots were saturated with it."

## The Way We Get By

**Janie @ Janie In Madison:** "Each soldier seemed genuinely appreciative to be greeted by these strangers, even though some of them were incredibly anxious to talk to their children or grieve over a friend who didn't make it back. A wonderful piece."

## Three Monkeys

**It\_kije @ twitter:** "ended with a gorgeous two-minute shot, but the rest of the film wasn't nearly worth it"

## Tokyo Sonata

**Erik @ The Entertainment Shack:** "It started out a lighter comedy, and I thought it turned darker pretty quick. My more cultured friends called it an in-your-face social commentary on the modern Japanese family, although I didn't pick up on that. Minus some over-the-top emotions near the end, I really enjoyed the movie."

**John Wiedenhoeft @ Decider :** "I feel like I just got kicked in the crotch...of my heart. It's hard to justify calling a study of a middle-class family as full of eye and ear candy that has to be experienced, but there it was right on the screen."

**j. j. murphy @ on independent cinema:** "Yet what's truly mind-boggling here is that Kurosawa shifts the tone of this family melodrama with a totally straight face. That's what gives the film its utterly uncanny quality. Kurosawa shoots Tokyo Sonata in

wonderfully cluttered compositions. His cinematographer Akiko Ashizawa often lights the interior scenes with a mixture of warm oranges and cool greens and blues."

**Sean @ dane101:** "*Tokyo Sonata* doesn't strike me as a masterpiece, but Kurosawa is undoubtedly an auteur worth watching, and there's plenty to get out of his take on domestic melodrama, complete with his standard gorgeous frames and perfectly measured performances."

**Rob Hunter @ Film School Rejects** (not at fest, but coincidentally posted review this morning): "Tokyo Sonata is one of the more beautiful films of the year, and that's due in equal parts to Kurosawa's eye as well as the performances of the three main leads. (Koyanagi is fine but his role is smaller and less affecting than the rest.) Kagawa's face pours shame as a father and husband unable to provide for his family. Koizumi is equally strong as the mother and wife who feels unnecessary and invisible."

### Tracks

**Emily Mills @ dane101:** "the technical shortcomings of this admittedly low-budget film do a lot to sabotage the otherwise compelling story and good acting. While certain rough edges are to be expected when operating on such a shoestring, there are, in my opinion, certain levels of basic due diligence that ought to be met before shopping a film out to festivals and the like."

**It\_kije @ twitter:** "started trivial but went over the top midway through...a puzzling, uneven effort"

### Treeless Mountain

**Philgm Guy, Not Phlegm Guy:** "The film did everything right when it comes to capturing the quiet moments, and having ambiguity, and being introspective and meaningful, and having an ending that isn't too "Hollywood"; but frankly this movie could've used a little more Hollywood in it."

### Who is KK Downey?

**Tom Vatterott @ A Taste of Cineman:** "Sometimes a ridiculous movie comes along and affects me in the strangest of ways. Who is KK Downey? did that, but wasn't some life changing experience. It was just so absurd, so vulgar, and so "in your face" that it is hard to think about. I guess that is what a good comedy does."

### Win or Lose: A Summer Camp Story

**Kris Zimmerman @ The Good, The Bad, and the Wonky:** "What I really liked was the window into these boys' camp. Their camaraderie, their passion, and how much a part of their lives this is. And the competitions are a blast. "

**life and puppies:** "It was neat, too, to see how boys behave at these ages, particularly in the absence of girls or women. This was an insanely fun movie, but I wouldn't put it in the category of inspirational. Of course, I don't think it was meant to be."

### Winter of Frozen Dreams

**Adam Schabow @ dane101:** "It had the production value of an Amy Fischer made-for-TV movie. I was in disbelief at how bad it was. The music, the sound, the wig Birch was wearing, the acting, the editing, the dialogue, the cinematography, the lighting. It was clear the director, Eric Mandelbaum, had no real plan or focus. Watching it I became more and more sad."

**mpxl @ twitter:** "Still confident I disliked "Frozen Dreams" for valid reasons, not just because they tried to pass off Schenectady as Madison"

**jessWFF @ twitter:** "has been the biggest disappointment of the fest so far - the more I discuss it, the less I like it."