



GOLDEN BEAR AWARD WINNER

ON BODY AND SOUL

Director/ Screenplay: Ildikó Enyedi
Cast: Alexandra Borbély, Géza Morcsányi, Réka Tenki, Zoltán Schneider, Ervin Nagy
Duration: 116min

PLOT: The slaughterhouse in Budapest, Hungary becomes a setting for a love story for two very unlikely people. Maria and her slightly older boss Endre discover their spiritual kinship and are amazed to find out that they have the same dreams

at night. Together they both discover the realms of emotions and their physical needs.

The film starts with the scene of a male and a female deer nuzzling, with a snow-covered forest in the background. Endre is immediately attracted by the newcomer Maria but she being evasive and shy, rebuffs his advances in panic. Given their work environment, they are periodically evaluated by a psychiatrist. The psychia-

trist discovers that both Endre and Maria are having the exact same dream and decides to tell them about it. Upon finding out about this, they become very confused but agree to discover the reason behind it. In the process, they become more intimate.

The film "On Body and Soul" is an eccentric take on discovering one's emotional and physical desires. The story of two introvert misfits who can't connect

with each other in the real world end up mysteriously doing so in their dreams; certainly a fascinating concept to watch. The portrayal of their love story is truly poetic in contrast to the brutal reality they both live in. The richness of the script is worth mentioning. The director seemed to create a completely different world in the realm of dreams and explored emotional and physical desires in a very eccentric but sensual way.

OPENING FILM DJANGO

Director: Etienne Comar
Screenplay: Etienne Comar and Alexis Salatko
Cast: Reda Kateb, Cécile de France, Alex Brendemühl, Ulrich Brandhoff
Duration: 117min

PLOT: "Django" is a biopic of Django Reinhart, the famous French guitarist and composer. The film revolves around his life in Germany, occupying Paris in 1943. It depicts his fight for survival and how the constant danger and atrocities committed to his family by the Nazis couldn't stop him from playing his music.

Situated in 1943's France during the Nazi occupation, Django is a famous musician known for delighting his audiences with his witty 'gypsy music'. Although most Romanian people are being persecuted in concentration camps due to racial discrimination, Django is sure that due to his immense popularity, he will be safe. All is well until he is asked by the German Nazis to go to Germany and counteract the 'Negro music' influence from the US. Django refuses and thus, starts his fight for survival. In the process of his flight from Paris, he along with his pregnant wife and mother is helped by one of

his admirers to hide in a village near the Swiss border, where he meets a large family also on the run from the Nazis. Just as he is about to enter Switzerland, the Nazis find him.

Django marks the directorial debut of Etienne Comar who had previously written and produced "Of Gods and Men", "Haute Cuisine" and "My King". He beautifully shines light on the atrocities faced by the Romanians at the hands of the Nazis during the Second World War. Critics found Reda Kateb's performance as the late Django quite enchanting. The movie was enthralling for people as it showed them a part of Django Reinhart's life in many ways one can't think of.



FÉLICITÉ



BEST DIRECTOR

Director/ Screenplay: Alain Gomis
Cast: Véro Tshanda Beya, Gaetan Claudia and Papi Mpaka
Duration: 123min

PLOT: The film is based on the struggles of a single mother who also works as a singer in a bar. Félicité loves to sing and every time she gets up on stage, the music transports her to a different world. All seems to be going well until one day her son gets into a horrific accident. In the aftermath of the accident, while trying to pick up the pieces of her life and rebuild it, she meets a man named Tabu and develops an unlikely relationship with him.

Félicité being the proud and independent single woman that she is, unashamedly works as the singer of a bar in Kinshasa, Congo. The audience of the bar seems to be enthralled by her performance every night.

After her son gets into an accident, Félicité desperately tries to raise money for her son's operation. Tabu, a regular at the bar, offers to help Félicité and she reluctantly accepts. After Félicité's son returns from the hospital, Tabu becomes an unlikely source of support and comfort to him. The three of them soon become a family in the most unconventional sense.

The critics highly praised Véro's husky, double-espresso singing voice. The scenes that involve her singing in the bar are mesmerizing to watch. The film perfectly portrays the struggles every single mother must face, such as indifference from the system, harassment from men, and even cruelty from loved ones. The film also gives the audience an intimate view of the parts of Africa that are not usually portrayed in mainstream cinema.