



Reviewed by **Alex Henteloff**
Special to CASA

Modern Master Award Winner: JAMES CAMERON

ON THE RED CARPET SATURDAY NIGHT OUTSIDE THE ARLINGTON THEATRE, I asked James Cameron if he mined creative ideas from childhood or from awareness of 'the world'. He answered "both" and added that he was always interested in science, art, story telling, and always dreamed and still does. And he made it a point to share credit with those who helped create both his past and present commercial and technical triumphs.

Interviewed inside by Leonard Maltin, he showed that 'going with the flow' is a big part of his genius; that includes being confident, being prepared, and having a good sense of humor. After being introduced, he began to speak of

how he arrived at where he is now. Mr. Maltin interrupted and Mr. Cameron smiled, "Oh, am I stealing your thunder? Sorry." Then he returned to the audience and said "I'll return to this point later. Remember."

That was the first of several glitches that were all handled with charm, ease, and wit. A schedule change led to scrapping some film clips and the "Modern Master Award" was presented early because Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, the presenter, had another event to attend. It was fun. The two recalled the films they did together which shot both to Hollywood's 'A' list in starting with the action-adventure special effects wonder, *Terminator*. Their friendship was very warm and the governor joked that "Jim makes great female heroines: Linda Hamilton

(*Terminator*) and Sigourney Weaver (*Aliens*)... just like my wife Maria."

Mr. Cameron explained that this was the first picture to incorporate the special effects into the story. Before, the story stopped; then insert the special effects; then story would continue, etc. (He was self taught in special effects. Although not enrolled, "I'd go to the 'stacks' at USC, pull everything related to film technology and photocopy it or made notes.")

It was clear as he spoke and watched film clips that Cameron remains fascinated by technology, science, and human nature and that he will continue to 'push the envelope' on every project he approaches. As he says, "If you're doing what you love, you'll never have to work a day in your life!"



Lucky Brand® Modern Master **James Cameron** received award from California Governor **Arnold Schwarzenegger**



Bobby Carradine



Barbara Boros, 2010 SBIFF Poster Designer and **Dana Morrow**, Tribute Director



Kirk Douglas at the screening Posse



Sheela Hunt and Mark Hunt



The Chopin Virtuoso Award: **Saoirse Ronan**

Documentary Delights

Reviewed by **Alex Henteloff**
Special to CASA

THERE ARE ALWAYS TERRIFIC DOCUMENTARIES AT THE FESTIVAL: *Two Spirits*, directed by Lydia Nibley, is a tender exploration of the life and death of a young, gay Navajo teen. He had a 'duality of spirit' that was once accepted and revered within the Navajo culture. Those who were spiritually cross-gendered were thought to have heightened awareness and sensitivity. Several 'dual' peoples are interviewed as the film explores how the culture has been eroded, first by missionaries, then by the ever widening influence of the dominant American culture.

The Desert of Forbidden Art, a Russian Federation/USA/Uzbekistan co-production

written, produced, and directed by Amanda Pope and Tchavdar Georgiev, is an amazing story. Igor Savitsky, an artist who quit painting to blend into society, won over artists and authorities, over many years, and managed to gather 40,000 works of his contemporaries. He had a museum built in a remote corner of Uzbekistan to house the collection--great 20th century Russian art which he rescued from the Soviets (who thought the artists should be imprisoned and their decadent art should be banned or destroyed). It is a story of amazing courage and determination interspersed with interviews with surviving artists and their offspring and a luscious sampling of the masterpieces. A triumph of human spirit and the power of art!

REEL CREATIVE, celebrates human spirit. Four short stories, one Canadian, three American, bring forth inspiring acts of creativity.

Shira Avni's *Tying Your Own Shoes*, (Canada) looks at young people with Down syndrome. "They narrate their stories with their own animation and art work. It alters one's perception of Down syndrome.

Neil Leifer's *Dark Light*, is a fascinating look into the world of three blind photographers: Pete Eckert, who lost 95% of his vision at age 28, and went on to be a successful photographer; legally blind, Bruce Hall uses underwater close-up (macro) photography to show us a part of the

world we might otherwise miss; Steve Audette's *Nico's Challenge* takes us to the top of Mt. Kilimanjaro with a one-legged 13 year old boy on his quest to raise money for wheel chairs for poor people in Africa (an amazing journey!); finally, *Waiting For A Train* is Oscar Buchet's study of Toshiro Hirano, a middle aged Japanese man who, infected by

American music in his youth, taught himself to play guitar and sing and followed his bliss to America. After many years on the road, he settled in San Francisco, married, raised two children, and continues to earn his living performing Bluegrass and Country Western music.

Crazy Art is an absorbing, provocative, and informative documentary by Justin Rowe that presents three gifted Santa Barbara artists, all living with schizophrenia. It's a compelling argument for combining traditional therapies, including medications, with art.

Through interviews with local artists Rodger Casier, Trinity Lopez Wakefield, and Lesley Grogan, we learn of the ongoing struggles of living with schizophrenia and of the healing



Crazy Art: **Justin Rowe**, Director; **J.T. Turner**, Executive Director of Phoenix of Santa Barbara; **Lesley Grogan**, **Rodger Casier**, and **Trinity Lopez-Wakefield**.

power of creativity. All three can and do function very well and their work is outstanding. Their creativity has increased their sense of self worth and shows the positive effect that art can have on treating mental illness.

Director Rowe and producer/narrator J.T. Turner take time to sensitively show the artists' works. They are beautiful, with vivid, rich color, fully embracing the passions in their lives.

Van Gogh is used to illustrate the fusion of mental illness with intense creativity. Clearly that synergy occurs with Mr. Casier, Ms. Wakefield, and Ms. Grogan, but they are in control. Their talent and clarity of purpose are apparent in the interviews and in the finished art: they are dynamic, emotionally penetrating and they unlock deep feelings upon viewing them. *Crazy Art* is fascinating.



Roger Durling, SB City Mayor **Helene Schneider**, and **Yanick Godbout**, Quebec Film Commission



Michael Allen Rissi, Director; and **Nina Terzian**