

Feature Presentation

BON COP, BAD COP

Canada, 2006 – Rated 14A – 94 minutes

Directed by Eric Canuel

Imagine a bilingual cop buddy movie starring a French-Canadian Nick Nolte and an English-Canadian Pierre Trudeau and you begin to understand the potential fun of *Bon Cop, Bad Cop*, a way-over-the-top comic murder mystery starring Colm Feore and Patrick Huard.



As with all buddy movies, *Bon Cop, Bad Cop* succeeds on the strength of the leads' rapport. Screenwriter-star Huard (*Les Boys*) plays the Nick Nolte role – the shambling, chain-smoking Bouchard – with a weary, attractive grace. Feore, meanwhile, exhibits a feline vanity throughout, taking evident pleasure in negotiating tricky French verb tenses or properly preparing a gourmet meal. The French-English odd couple is fun together without ever being cute. They don't enjoy their relationship; the audience does.

Bon Cop Bad Cop fires more than a few jokes wide of the net. Still, it is a pleasure to watch a Canadian film that handles its audience with such rough, knowing affection – a broad, crowd-pleasing movie pitched to an audience, as opposed to an arts committee.



Martin Ward **Colm Feore**
David Bouchard **Patrick Huard**
Capt. Le Boeuf **Pierre Lebeau**
Tom Berry **Rick Mercer**
Suzie **Lucie Laurier**

Wednesday, October 25

MERRY CHRISTMAS (JOYEUX NOËL)

France/Germany/UK, 2005 – Rated 14A

Written & directed by Christian Carion

With English subtitles

On Christmas Eve of 1914, a remarkable event took place in the trenches where the Germans faced the British and the French. There was a spontaneous cease-fire, as the troops on both sides laid down their weapons and observed the birth of the savior in whose name they were killing each other.

Carion's film is a trilingual portrait of a short stretch of the front lines, a small enough microcosm of the war that we're able to follow most of the key players. These men have much in common with one another. They come from the same kinds of homes, went to the same kinds of schools and worship the same kinds of gods. They are required to fight, and most of them are required to die.

Joyeux Noel has its share of bloodshed, but the movie is about a respite from carnage, and it lacks the brutal details of films like *Saving Private Ryan*. Its sentimentality is muted by the thought that this moment of peace actually did take place, among men who were punished for it, and who mostly died soon enough afterward. But on one Christmas, they were able to express what has been called, perhaps too optimistically, the brotherhood of man.

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November 8...



THE JOURNALS OF KNUD RASMUSSEN

Canada, 2006 – Rated 14A

In Inuktituk and Danish

Zacharias Kunuk's new film is a rare and shattering look at an indigenous community facing its own cultural extinction. *Subtitled*

Because of theatre unavailability on November 22, our usual every-other-Wednesday format is suspended here. Only one week separates these two films.

November 15...



HOUSE OF SAND

Brazil, 2005 – Rated 14A

In Portuguese

A surprisingly lush and colourful romance blossoms in the bleak and gorgeous desert setting of northern Brazil. Directed by Andrucha Waddington. *Subtitled*

TONIGHT'S SHORT FILM At The Quinte Hotel

A beautifully animated interpretation, Bruce Alcock's four-minute film celebrates one of Canadian poet Al Purdy's best-known works. Stop-motion and traditional line animation are combined with live action to create a bold, engaging visual correlate to Purdy's rich poetry. Voiced by the iconoclastic wordsmith himself in one of his final recordings (a 1968 live reading for CBC), the piece is a whirlwind tour of figurative speech and blunt objects, both verbal and visual, and it's exhilarating.

SEEING STARS

Did you know there are movie stars living only hours by car from Belleville? Pascale Bussières, Rémy Girard, Guy A. Lepage and many, many more. Not your idea of movie stars? Maybe it's time for Anglo Canada to think a little more like French Canadians. Not only do Quebecers appreciate their home-grown talent, they have an entire star system. One need only tune in to *Tout le monde en parle*, a popular Quebecois talk show, to be dazzled by the wide variety of stars you've never heard of before.

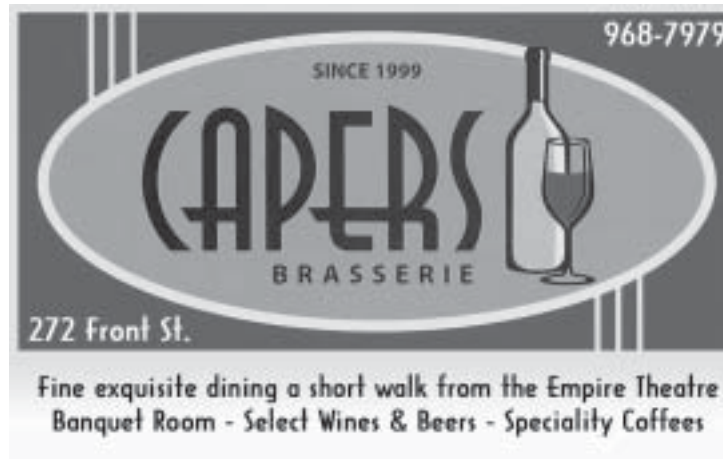
The difference between English Canadian and French Canadian film industries is apparent in the box office record of *Bon Cop, Bad Cop*. In English Canada, the film has grossed \$1.3 million, which is completely respectable. In Quebec, it has set a record, topping \$9 million.

Why long for the airbrushed good looks of American pop-stars who seem so far away when you can be inspired by someone you could actually run into on a visit to Montreal? Brad Pitt might look good in his latest movie trailer but can he really hold a candle to a three-story billboard of Roy Dupuis in the metro? Anglo-Canadians express pride in their hockey, their donuts and their peacekeepers but rarely in their cinema. We pooh-pooh the States on their imperialistic policies but when we want to watch a movie or television, two of the most powerful media through which we understand the world, we almost always look south. What can be gained by having our own national discussions through film about the world around us? Perhaps we can learn a little more about ourselves, and discover whole new facets of this country we never knew existed.

QFA Directors: Richard Lummiss, Lynn Braun, Mike Macleod, Art MacKay, Evelyn Neumann, Lois Thompson, Maury Flunder, Craig Shonk, Penny Hendricks, Melissa Gruber.

QFA Volunteers: Barbara Howard, Linda Minty, Mary Jean Carty, Julie Roberts.

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Foreign Affairs
Canada



Wednesday, October 11, 2006

