

WVXU Views and Reviews

Movie Reviews

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Divertissement: Everyday Dancers' Stories Industrial Strength Film

Rated NR
 Now Showing at: Cincinnati Art Museum auditorium on July 22
 Review by: Larry Thomas

Upon graduating from CCM's Electronic Media Department, Cincinnati Ed Lippman knew his future involved movies and television. After working in these mediums in the Midwest, Lippman moved to Los Angeles in 1991, and racked up credits on such films as *Ed Wood* and *Minority Report*, and TV shows like *ER*, *The X-Files* and *The Closer*. He has completed his first feature-length documentary film, which will be having its premiere today and tomorrow here in Cincinnati.



Divertissement: Everyday Dancers' Stories is a heartfelt look at five amateur ballet dancers, all women, ranging in age from 40 to 61. The five are from all over the US and come together at a professionally run "ballet camp" for adult dancers. They have either come to dance late in life, or returned to dance after a lengthy absence.

Among them are a teacher who flies her own plane, a systems analyst, a research analyst, and two stay-at-home moms, one of whom home schools her children. While their lives are good, they've reached a point where something is needed for their own personal fulfillment. And for these five, their "something" is ballet.

The film manages to balance the back-stories with the ballet camp so that it never feels draggy, and that we get a good sense of what drives these women. There is no narration, allowing them to tell their stories in their own words. And the use of music is quite adept, ranging from original music written expressly for ballet classes, to a song by Over the Rhine. A couple of the camera angles and character setups are close to becoming documentary clichés, but other shots are quite imaginative, as is the editing.

A good documentary can do many things. First, and foremost, it will take you someplace new. You can meet people that may inspire you to do something different, or even change your life. It may aid you in understanding diverse points of view. And... just like in a good fiction film... it will entertain you. *Divertissement: Everyday Dancers' Stories* manages to accomplish all of these quite admirably.

And this film may even encourage you to follow suit with a dream or idea

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 1223 Central Parkway
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English Christmas Cooking From Elizabeth David

Tue, 23 Dec 2008
 A new cookbook spreads the wisdom and recipes of the late Elizabeth David, perhaps the most celebrated English food writer of the last century. David enjoys a place in British cooking and culture somewhat like that of Julia Child in the United States.



Markets Bustling As Truffle Season Begins In France

Tue, 23 Dec 2008
 There is an atmosphere of intrigue as truffle sellers line up

or a long-neglected passion of your own. It's well worth seeing.

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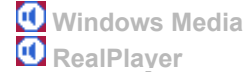
... carrying *les truffes noires*, the famous black truffle of the Perigord region of France, in their baskets. They will fetch anywhere from \$250 to \$400 a pound, depending on their quality.



What's In A Name? A Madoff Weighs In

Mon, 22 Dec 2008

The name Madoff has been sullied thanks to money manager Bernard Madoff, who has been accused of creating a Ponzi scheme that bilked investors out of \$50 billion. Bernard Madoff is not the only Madoff in the country. Ari Madoff, a lawyer in Chicago, is trying to drum up business in the wake of the scandal.



No Gelt. No Glory: A Dreidel Champion Is Crowned

Mon, 22 Dec 2008

Dreidel spinners like Debbie Does Dreidel and Jewbacca take on defending champion Pamskee in the Major League Dreidel Championship in New York City. The target? To beat 17.8 seconds.

