



Geeking Out

New films debut at SXSW

The longest line I stood in at last month's South By Southwest Film Festival was for a film that was opening across the country just days later. You can probably draw a few conclusions about the mainstreaming of nerd culture from this, but I keep coming back to one thing: firsties. Geeks are geeks (and I'm a geek) and the promise of seeing Simon Pegg and Nick Frost at the screening of their new movie — *Paul*, a slight but funny film about two sci-fi nerds getting more of an alien encounter than they bargained for — is geek catnip, sure. But why wait in a line that wraps around a city block to see a movie you could waltz right into five days later?

To be first. To have something the rest of the internet, and the rest of the geeks, are yet to have. In that case, the truly lucky are those night owls who saw *Attack the Block*, which picked up the festival's Midnight Feature Audience Award. *Paul* is sweet and safe, and makes geek culture easily palatable for those who don't speak Klingon. *Attack the Block*, the first film from British writer-director Joe Cornish, is a smart, sly, effective monster

movie inspired by gang movies and creature flicks. Terse and taut and full of beautiful night shots, *Attack the Block* follows a gaggle of kids from a South London high-rise as they try to fend off an alien invasion — an invasion that begins as they're mugging a young woman. The mugging and the alien threat converge, in Cornish's carefully built script, as the film plays with and reverses our expectations about its characters. The future of the world (or at least London) in the hands of a posse of freaked-out, tight-knit, smart-arse would-be thugs: So much could go wrong with this premise, but it never does. *Attack the Block* is out in the U.K. next month; it's got American distribution, but no release date has been set.

I didn't just see geek-bait in Austin; among the other highlights were Sebastian Gutierrez (*Elektra Luxx*)'s episodic, charming *Girl Walks Into a Bar*, which you can watch in its entirety on YouTube, and the deeply affecting *How to Die in Oregon*, a documentary about the decisions made by those who take advantage of Oregon's Death With Dignity Act. Director Peter D.

Richardson's film, which won the Grand Jury Prize in the documentary competition at Sundance but left SXSW empty handed, is a personal, intimate, sometimes harrowing take on what it actually means to decide to end your own life. Richardson is concerned not with whether or not the act is ethical, or why people are opposed to or in favor of it, but with the nuts and bolts of what it means — of what kind of illness leads a person to consider ending his or her life, how that decision affects family members, and how a doctor makes the decision to provide the fatal prescription. Though it's clearly in favor of people having the right to choose to end their lives, *How to Die in Oregon*, which airs on HBO later this year, doesn't so much make a case for Death With Dignity so much as it provides a window into a terrible process.

It made sense, since I was at SXSW for the music, film and interactive parts of the festival, to cross wires a little and catch a few music-related films. Though *The Other F Word*, a problematic but sweet documentary about punk rock dads, and *Upside Down: The Creation Records Story*

were both worth checking out, the standout, to my cheery surprise, was the Foo Fighters documentary *Back and Forth*. I'd somehow managed to miss the moment when the Foos became *enormous*, selling out the 85,000-seat Wembley Stadium, so *Back and Forth* was moderately educational as well as being a fairly candid look at the band's history. Drummer Taylor Hawkins is reportedly unhappy about just how candid the film is, but what he's unhappy with is just what makes *Back and Forth* compelling: the sense that these dudes are just dudes — flawed, talented, down-to-earth, not quite as prone to screwing up as they are to writing intensely catchy choruses. They're the kind of guys who still want to record in the garage, even if said garage is pretty goddamn gussied up. Funny, warm and fairly effective at keeping things in perspective, the documentary doesn't break any new ground, but it's definitely enough to make me want to break out the Foo Fighters records of years past. Conveniently, of course, their new album just came out. Go forth and purchase, rock fans. **EW**

DAVID MINOR THEATER
 TIX \$2 | SUN & TUES OVER \$5 | 21 & FOOD MENU
 762-1700 | 180 E. 5TH AVE | DAVIDMINORTHEATER.COM
 THURS APR 14 - WED APR 20

THE FIGHTER 5:30* OSCAR WINNERS	I LOVE YOU PHILLIP MORRIS 7:40	FAIR GAME 7:40 THE VALERIE PLAME STORY
127 HOURS 9:30 LAST WEEK	BLACK SWAN 5:30 9:30 OSCAR WINNER	COMING SOON OSCAR WINNERS THE KING'S SPEECH

*EXCEPT 4/14
FEATURING "TEXT-A-BEER"
 "NO LONGER SNEAKING BEER INTO THE MOVIES SINCE 2008"

Sunrise
 Asian Food Market

Largest Selection of Asian Groceries
 Seaweed, rice, noodles, frozen products, deli, snacks, drinks, sauces, spices, produce, housewares, and more.

We carry groceries from Holland, India, Pakistan and Polynesia
 Sushi & Asian deli take-out

Woodfield Station SHOPPING CENTER
 29TH AVENUE

Sunrise
 www.sunriseasianfood.com
 M-Th 9am-7pm • F 9am-8pm • Sa 9am-7pm • Su 10am-6pm
 70 W. 29th Ave. Eugene • 541-343-3295

BART CINEMAS
 for April 14 - 21
 492 East 13th
 686-2458
 bijou-cinemas.com

THU April 14	FRI April 15	SAT April 16	SUN April 17	MON April 18	TUES April 19	WED April 20	THU April 21
OF GODS AND MEN 4:50 7:30	7:25	2:20 7:25	2:20 7:25	6:15	6:15	6:15	Ends tonight! 6:15
7:15 9:30	5:00 7:15 9:30	3:00 5:00 7:15 9:30	2:40 5:00 7:15	HOOD TO COAST			Ends tonight! 5:25 7:45
OPAL 5:15	5:15	1:00 5:15	Ends tonight! 9:30	follow us!			HOUSE (1977) Late Nite punch passes accepted! 9:00 9:00
WHO FRAMED ROGER RABBIT? Late Nite punch passes accepted! 10:10	10:10	NOON (sensory-friendly) 10:10	NOON 5:05	Coming soon: DISORIENT FILM FESTIVAL QUEEN OF THE SUN INTO ETERNITY			
THE ROOM Late Nite punch passes accepted! 11:45	11:45	11:45	LIVING DOWNSTREAM PANEL DISCUSSION BY OREGON TOADS ALLIANCE NOON	*Adults—\$7*Students w/ID—\$6*Seniors—\$5*Matinees—\$5*Lates—\$5*Miser Mondays—\$3*			

Safe Removal of Mercury Fillings
 Wellness Centered Dentistry
 868-2008
 300 Country Club Rd Ste 290
 Rob Whicker DDS
 www.wcdentistry.com