

movies

The ubiquitous use of plastics in *Bag It*



streets, to their many flamboyant characters, to their political activism and finally to Jools' battle with breast cancer.

Director Leanne Pooley weaves together live performances and interviews with the Topp Twins and their alter egos, as well as talks with numerous satirists, comedians and friends, to give a full picture of these effervescent Kiwis turned gay icons. Viewers watch the duo overcome several hardships with a laugh and a yodel.

Between Two Worlds

In 2009, the San Francisco Jewish Film Festival was caught in a whirlwind of controversy: Organizers decided to screen *Rachel*, a documentary about American activist and, in some circles, political martyr Rachel Corrie. Twenty-three-year-old Corrie was run over by a bulldozer in 2003 while protesting the demolition of homes in Gaza. What followed the controversial screening was an intense debate about the very meaning of being Jewish.

Filmmakers Alan Snitow and Deborah Kaufman come from different backgrounds. Kaufman's father, a veteran of WWII, helped liberate a concentration camp in Buchenwald. An ardent Zionist, he believed a Jewish state was necessary for the preservation of his people. Snitow's mother was a former communist who viewed the Soviet Union as a social utopia before becoming an important Jewish political figure in the United States. Two different political upbringings, yet both explicitly Jewish.

This documentary creates an open dialogue about Israel and American Jewish identity. Is airing a film about a woman protesting Israeli policy inherently anti-Semitic? Is unquestioning support of Israel a requisite for being truly Jewish? Is building a Holocaust museum on the site of an 800-year-old Muslim cemetery acceptable behavior?

Although *Between Two Worlds* may not definitively answer these questions, it does

feature candid interviews from rabbis, students, political activists and other members of the Jewish community as they struggle to talk about these issues.

Bag it

Americans use 60,000 plastic bags every five minutes. This is the problem Jeb Berrier initially confronts in *Bag It*, a documentary that later turns into an exploration of the ubiquitous use of plastic and its effects on both our society and the environment.

Plastic is a nice, cheap polymer popularized in the 1960s. We think of it as packaging material, bags or toys, but as Berrier shows, it's also used in tin cans, the lining of soap containers and much, much more. Plastic doesn't naturally break down. It's filling our oceans. It's filling our landfills. And most people don't even know what it is made of.

Bag It follows Berrier as he seeks out ways to deal with the problem: First, by not using plastic bags; next by analyzing the different varieties of plastic and the ambiguous way they are listed on products; then ending with a plea to simply cut back on consumption. Berrier talks with many like-minded experts, continuously complains about his inability to get an interview with anyone inside the plastic industry and American Chemical Council, and includes footage of him attempting to get a drive-thru fast food joint to let him eat their food on his own plate.

Berrier also goes into a lengthy investigation of the safety of plastic in baby products as he gets ready to become a father. *Bag It* isn't so much about plastic

as it is about a man's quest for answers as he discovers just how much of his life is centered around this synthetic material.

And the Rest

Director Carl Fechner follows the work of individuals across ten different countries as they try to attain the common goal of energy autonomy in *The 4th Revolution: Energy Autonomy*. There are few, if any, more pressing global issues facing the future of humankind, and this documentary provides valuable insight into the efforts to achieve this dream.

There aren't many reputations that have been more damaged by the passage of time, the changing of mindsets and the increase of information than that of Christopher Columbus. *Even the Rain* starts with a director attempting to make a film about Columbus as a conquering imperialist. The producer moves it to Bolivia in order to cut costs, and instead they discover a country in upheaval as the government tries to privatize the water supply. The exploitation of indigenous people hardly ended with Columbus.

The centerpiece film and discussion of the Great Works Film Festival will be *Light in the Darkness*, the third film in the Not In Our Town series. This film follows the mayor and residents of Patchogue, NY, as they try to address the underlying causes of the violent attacks on the members of the town's Latino community. **EW**

The Good Works Film Festival plays Oct. 7-10 at several locations; for information, visit goodworks.festivalgenius.com

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THE IDES OF MARCH (R) - ID REQ'D Fri. - Sun. (1145 215) 445 715 945
COURAGEOUS (PG-13) Fri. - Sat. (1205 300) 630 930
Sun. (1205 PM) 630 PM 930 PM
WHAT'S YOUR NUMBER? (R) - ID REQ'D Fri. - Sun. (1150 220) 500 740 1025
DREAM HOUSE (PG-13) Fri. - Sun. (1210 240) 510 725 950
50/50 (R) - ID REQ'D Fri. - Sun. (1140 225) 455 735 1010
DOLPHIN TALE IN REAL D 3D - EVENT PRICING (PG) ★ Fri. - Sun. (1235 PM) 645 PM
DOLPHIN TALE (PG) Fri. - Sun. (1155 AM) 920 PM
MONEYBALL (PG-13) Fri. - Sun. (1245) 405 705 1005
KILLER ELITE (R) - ID REQ'D Fri. (250 PM) 650 PM 935 PM
Sat. (1155 AM) 650 PM 935 PM
Sun. (250 PM) 650 PM
KILLER ELITE (OC) (R) - ID REQ'D Fri. (1155 AM) Sat. (250 PM) Sun. (1155 AM) 935 PM
ABDUCTION (PG-13) Fri. - Sun. (1225 255) 635 910
THE LION KING IN REAL D 3D - EVENT PRICING (G) ★ Fri. - Sun. (1200 230) 450 710 925
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DOLPHIN TALE IN REAL D 3D - EVENT PRICING (PG) ★ Fri. - Sun. (340 PM) 940 PM
DOLPHIN TALE (PG) Fri. - Sun. (1240 PM) 640 PM
KILLER ELITE (R) - ID REQ'D Fri. - Sun. 1010 PM
MONEYBALL (PG-13) Fri. - Sun. (1230 330) 630 930
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