

FILM REVIEW: It's Birds Vs. Pigs in 'The Angry Birds Movie'

by Kam Williams
For The Skanner News

With over three billion downloads and counting, Angry Birds is the most popular app of all time. Nevertheless, one need not be familiar with the video game to enjoy this delightful animated adventure.

The kid-oriented cartoon was co-directed by Fergal Reilly and Clay Kaytis who make an auspicious debut with this silly comedy featuring enough sophisticated asides to keep adults thoroughly entertained, too. The frenetically-paced production arrives laced with witty one-liners (likes "Something isn't Kosher about these pigs.") as well as a cornucopia of cute sight gags (such as a billboard for "Calvin Swine" underwear).

The story is set on idyllic Bird Island, a tropical paradise inhabited by a variety of very happy flightless birds. As the film unfolds, we're introduced to four exceptions to the rule who actually have trouble controlling their tempers. We find protagonist Red (Jason Sudeikis), along with Chuck (Josh Gad), Bomb (Danny McBride) and Terence (Sean Penn), attending an anger management class being taught by Matilda (Maya Rudolph), a former angry bird-turned therapist.

The plot thickens upon the arrival of a big boat containing a couple of green pigs (Bill Hader and Tony Hale) claiming to be alone and explorers coming



Josh Gad is the voice of Chuck and Jason Sudeikis of Red in this "frenetically-paced production" based on the free-to-play game

in peace. Truth be told, the pair have a hidden agenda about to be executed by an army of other pigs about to be unleashed.

After suckering the masses of gentle, gullible birds into letting down their guard, the diabolical invaders proceed to steal every hatched egg on the island before setting sail for home. Once, it's clear they've all been duped, the irritable quartet, led by Red, springs into action.

Because they can't fly, they soon realize their best chance of retrieving the eggs rests in enlisting the assistance of Mighty Eagle (Peter Dinklage), the only bird on the island who can. Trouble is, he's lazy and hasn't flown in ages. of course, Red and company do eventually coax him out of retirement to join forces and help save the day

A kooky, kitchen sink comedy with lots of laughs for kids of all ages!

Very Good ★★★

Rated PG for action and rude humor

Running time: 95 minutes

Distributor: Sony Pictures

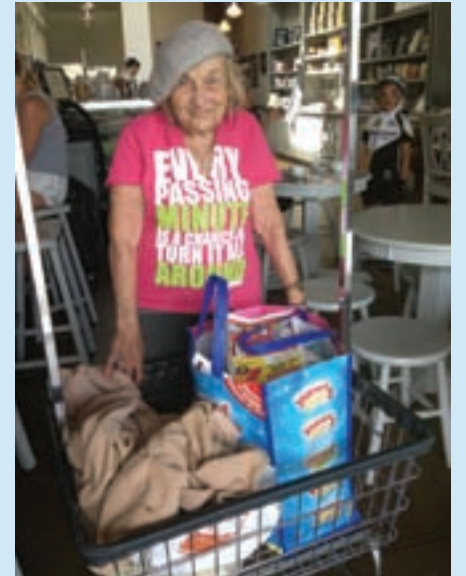
FILM REVIEW: 'Queen Mimi' Chronicles Hardy 88-Year-Old's Path from Homelessness to Hollywood

By Kam Williams
For The Skanner News

Marie "Mimi" Haist began living in her car when she was in her 50s. That was after she lost her house in the wake of a nasty divorce. And when she could no longer afford to keep up the car, she ended up struggling to survive on the streets of Los Angeles.

One day, the owner of the laundromat where she washed her clothes took pity on her. He not only gave her a job, but allowed her to start sleeping there overnight in a chair behind the first row of washers.

Because the store was in Santa Monica, it catered to a number of upscale clientele. Zach Galifianakis and Renee Zellweger were among the many locals who came to befriend Mimi. Eventually, the two actors decided to help the down-and-out octogenarian, with the former renting her an apartment while the latter



Homeless after a nasty divorce, Marie "Mimi" Haist lived in a California laundromat for more than 20 years

that intrigued director Yaniv Rokah enough to make her the subject of a film.

“...a revealing documentary offering an intimate portrait of a feisty, yet very likable lady with a strong survival instinct intact

furnished it for free.

Zach also had her as a guest on his TV show and took her as his date to a red carpet movie premiere. But who was this woman who had spent more than 30 years homeless?

What had her life been like before her fall from grace? Did she have any children or other loved ones? Those were the sort of questions

The upshot of that effort is "Queen Mimi," a revealing documentary offering an intimate portrait of a feisty, yet very likable lady with a strong survival instinct intact. A heartwarming reminder that there but for fortune, may go you or I.

Very Good ★★★

Unrated

Running time: 76 minutes

Wake of Vanport Series Workshop

Join the Wake of Vanport 2016 Series production team and learn video production for FREE!



On Memorial Day 1948, a dike broke on the Columbia River starting a flood that would leave 18,000 people homeless and altering race relations in Portland forever. This class is designed to tell the stories through oral history video production of these individuals. You will interview Vanport flood survivors as they talk about their lives in Vanport before and after the flood that displaced many Portlanders and left over 18,000 homeless.

Ten producers are trained on equipment, taught interview techniques, conduct interviews with Vanport survivors, and edit their productions using Final Cut Pro X. Equipment is loaned to producers throughout the workshop at no charge.

Topics covered in this workshop include the fundamentals of HD camera operation (Canon C100 Mk2), audio, shot composition, interviewing, lighting techniques and editing. These completed videos will be aired on the PCM channels and during special events throughout Portland.

FIELD PRODUCTION CLASSES

5/24 (Tues.) 5/26 (Thurs.) 5/30 (Mon.) and 6/2 (Thurs.) • 6-9 p.m.

You will learn the necessary video fundamentals to produce a short film to tell their story. Topics covered include the fundamentals of HD camera operation (Canon C100 Mk2), audio, shot composition, interviewing, and lighting techniques.

EDITING CLASSES

6/20 (Mon.), 6/21 (Tues.) • 6-9 p.m.

Final Cut Pro X training and editing raw Vanport footage to a 5-8 minute production.

Classes held at **PORTLAND COMMUNITY MEDIA**

Register at:

<https://community.pcmv.org/education/workshops/camera-editing-introductory-specialty/wake-vanport-2016-series-registration>