

Atlantic Film Festival

has faced from its beginnings as a demographic category without a name, to a powerful international community with a strong voice.

Narrator Kate Nelligan, a Hollywood veteran and former Oscar nominee, gives a voice to



Stolen Moments

the history of a group of people whom the mainstream, at one point, tried to ignore out of existence.

Stolen Moments is not a sob-story. It takes a hard-nosed approach and strives to be informative instead of heart-wrenching. It is to the credit of the film-makers then that one is able to feel sad and angry in spite of the academic approach.

The film traces the history of lesbians through the different decades of the modern Western world — the Nazi '40s, the McCarthyist '50s, and the "gay" '90s.

One learns about the secret underground bars frequented by lesbians when it was illegal for a woman to wear less than three pieces of female clothing. One learns that homosexuals were among the first to be put in Nazi concentration camps, but, unlike the Jews, the Allies left them there when they finally defeated Germany. One learns of lesbians routinely being raped by police, and not being able to complain to anyone.

Yet, in the face of all this adversity, the documentary shows that lesbians have formed a proud and vibrant community which contributes to other humanitarian efforts as well.

Stolen Moments is playing on Friday, September 26th at 7:00 at the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia.

KARAN SHETTY

MY DOG VINCENT

My Dog Vincent, filmed in Toronto, is the big screen debut of writer/director/producer Michael McGowan, and gives us a slice-of-life look at three young men as they hang out, do stuff and look for love — or at least companionship.

I played it safe and didn't count on the film being about a dog, and I wasn't let down. The movie's title isn't too relevant to the story. As a matter of fact, the only dog named Vincent doesn't show up until about an hour

into the story and stays on screen no more than a minute; those looking for some canine action had better stick to *Air Bud*.

I wasn't too sure where the movie was going for the first little while, which is good and bad. The story is decent enough, but is slowed down by

occasional segments of dragged-out dialogue, which are neither well written or well acted. I kept thinking I was watching a bizarre-Canadian Kevin Smith film.

The directing shines in its more lighthearted scenes, particularly a sequence in which two of the three chums decide to take a cooking class to meet girls, only to be mistaken for lovers by a group of women old enough to be their grandmothers. Some more bizarre aspects of the film include a Vincent Price memorial service and its initiator's neurotic-compulsive behaviour.

For the most part, though, the characters are well written and come off as fairly believable.

I did enjoy this film, if not entirely for its humour, for its ability to communicate the facts of life as seen through the eyes of the three main characters. It is a promising debut for McGowan, but hopefully in the future he'll branch out a bit more on his own — a lot of the scenes were very reminiscent of Kevin Smith's *Clerks* and *Chasing Amy*.

My Dog Vincent is showing at 9 p.m. on Friday, September 26, at Wormwoods.

SEAN JORDAN



My Dog Vincent

SOME SUGGESTED WEEKEND VIEWING AT THE ATLANTIC FILM FESTIVAL

Thursday, September 25:

The Secret Life of Algernon: 7:00 Oxford Theatre—Egyptian artifacts, a talking cat and loads of drugs.

Year of the Sheep: 9:00, Wormwoods—Two travellers become incapable in the face of unaccustomed freedom.

Friday, September 26:

Nights Below Station Street: 7:00, Park Lane—An eccentric teenager deals with the challenges of adolescence and family.

Zombies, Creepies, and the Undead: 11:00, Wormwoods—A series of short films dealing with death and those who don't exactly "die."

Saturday, September 27:

Dancing on the Moon: 1:00, Oxford Theatre—A young girl feels the pressure of growing up during the summer before junior high.

The Sweet Hereafter: 6:30, Park Lane—Atom Egoyan's adaption of Russell Banks' novel about a tragic accident claiming the lives of many children in rural British Columbia.



The Secret Life of Algernon