What did you enjoy most about the festival and films? Were there any particular films that stayed with you? And why?

71 responses

- The movies! My favs were Aga, Advocate, Raft, Dan Higgins film, Toni Morrison, Tobacconist
- The talent and substance
- Your instagram presence was engaging and inviting!
- Bobbie Lanahan’s film on Dan Higgins and The Raft
- Butterflies was good
- Portrait of A Lady on Fire and Diamantino. Both films grappled with themes of gender and sexuality contrasted by different time periods.
- unique choices of films
- The Tobacconist--I found the film and message compelling, We are living in a time that echoes the 30s. The documentary about Toni Morrison--I enjoyed her voice and her commitment.
- The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari was a revelation; work of art and horror.
- It must Schwing. Fabulous
- Nothing Fancy, The River and the Wall, Tobacconist, Lil Buck, Chambermaid, Parasite. All for different reasons.
- Toni Morrison and Nothing Fancy
- The river and the wall, milk, too many to mention
- Wide variety of great films, crossing over to many genres. Almost all the films we saw stayed with us!
- The Raft was the best of the five I saw.
- I thought The Chambermaid was well done. Absolutely hated Butterflies! saw films about subjects I didn't know anything about. wonderful!
- The Blue Note was excellent and I enjoyed Mr Toilet!
- I loved Butterflies and Give Me Liberty for the humor combined with serious issues. The photography in Aga was just stunning.
• Drawn by the movie and it's theme - surprised at how the lobby becomes a social affair - a party for old timers - lots of gray beards, gray hairs - lots of friends

• Having people involved in the making of the film is a real bonus

• The Tobacconist. The roster of films are extraordinary; it's a treasure for the community.

• Great variety of film selections

• The diversity of films and the ability to see films in Spanish

• My favorite was Aga, beautiful cinematography and a great story.

• I enjoy the venue and seeing a medley of people. I especially liked Portrait of a Lady on Fire, it was beautiful to watch and a journey of experience.

• loved Advocate, Sarah & Saleem & liked very much The Tobacconist, I am Cuba, Butterflies, Aga, Milk.

• Aga was beautiful

• I was so happy to be able to see Parasite. I've seen other films by this filmmaker and knew that Parasite won the Palme d'Or, so I was going to see it one way or another. I feel that including films of this stature help to make VTIFF a world class festival

• The variety. Butterflies was memorable, as was Give Me Liberty. Out of the 6 we saw, all of them stayed with us.

• For feature films I'll vote Aga as my favorite. I was spellbound from start to finish. However, my favorite film was Brotherhood. The performance by Salha Nasraoui was incredible! She can say more with her expressions than most can with hundreds of lines of dialogue. Too bad it wasn't lengthened into a full feature, but then it might have lost it compelling message.

• Great variety and choice of films!

• I only wish I could have seen more. The Raft and I am Cuba stayed with me. And the Dan Higgins was absolutely wonderful. Monos was pretty good, but lost power near the end.

• I loved the the Tobacconist film, Rojo, and the Milk documentary and the ivory smuggling documentary
• Toni Morrison, Chambermaid, raft, Give me liberty, river and the wall, it must have Schwing

• Diverse topics, different cultural perspectives I would not typically be exposed to, remarkable cinematography. Most memorable: Toni Morrison; when lambs become lions; reports of Sarah and Saleem

• I LOVE this festival. I saw at least ten films and thoroughly enjoyed them all.

• I didn't attend this year's screening

• Variety and quality of the films abd the filmmakers present or skyped. I love the breadth of what you show. From hometown Winooski to Singapore toilet man.
  • Documentaries excellent!

• Portrait of a Lady on Fire/ 2 hours went by in a flash. Stunning and tragic look at a relationship that couldn't continue The River and the Wall / I hadn't thought about the impact of the wall on wildlife

• Tobacconist; Rojo; Toni Morrison all really stood out. The theme that emerged of societies that allow authoritarian rule was a very powerful one--the dangers associated with it were more apparent than ever.

• I saw 10 films, so hard to pinpoint. The whole collection was fantastic. The Tobacconist, Be Natural, and Aga really stayed with me. I realized, when I was thinking about all the films, that I truly LEARNED more about life. How do we learn about people, cultures, places outside our orbit? Books, newspapers....but film adds in a layer of metaphor and subtlety that makes watching an experience, when it is done well. Thank you.

• The variety and excellence in choosing the films. The Advocate, The Tobacconist

• Some of the films fit together. The Spanish one about the couple and the documentary about Blue Note Records for example. They both explored the idea of the difficulty of understanding someone. Also, Clemency reminded me of part of the Tao Te Ching.

• The quality of the films and how appreciative we are that you jury the films and only pick the best. You have great taste!

• Loved parasite and butterflies!!

• Documentaries this year seemed especially good as well as featured films. Opening night, Non Fiction, and Clemency were outstanding.
• The mix of documentaries and fiction. "Clemency" stayed with me, not necessarily as my top pick. Aga, Butterflies, It Must Schwing!, The River and The Wall. and Nothing Fancy: Diana Kennedy were the high points for me. However, I thoroughly enjoyed Lil' Buck also!

• Toni Morrison film and The Advocate--documentaries about extraordinary, inspiring women.

• Dan Higgins (local legend), The Milk System, When Lambs Become Lions and The Venerable W. (all very thought provoking)

• The mix of selections. The conversations after the films. Aga - so beautifully filmed and made the case for how relationships are the core of happiness, everything else is fluff. The Tabacconist - his relationships with his customers and friends. And the clarity of his values. Toni Morrison - Wow. Her magnificent personality really shone. This film is making us go back and read her books again. Be Natural - what an eye opener about someone we knew nothing about before. Advocate - shows so clearly the difference in justice for Palestinians and for Israelis. The Butterfiles - funny and poignant. Lil Buc - very uplifting and wonderful to see someone who worked hard to develop his art be successful. Portrait of a Lady on Fire - such a wonderful development of a relationship and very well developed characters.

• I thought Monos was amazing; images from it continue to haunt me. Also loved Brothers, Liberty for All, Butterfiles, and found Parasites compelling for the most part.

• Sacred Buddha ... invested in it and believe in the message so strongly. It would have been nice to show it as a feature film or at least at a time when more could view it. Strong reviews would help more people to see it. if shown x2. The FR portrait film was powerful and beautiful. I bought tickets to see film about bi religious couple in Palestine and Isreal. Found it Raw...sex for the sake of sex with no romance between the two. Skas a woman whose husband wanders plerhaps it was too close for comfort. Sympathy for the wives and children. Felt no connection or empathy to actor and actress and wonder if last of development of character was necessary in order to tell this story? I left it within 15 minutes. Couldn't get into Parasite. :-((((.... Want to see doc. re climate change in Siberia?? or AK? it was at a difficult time.

• Variety

• Experiencing powerful and moving cinema with a group of interested people. I especially appreciated The Tobacconist and It Must Schwing.

• Only attended Toni Morrison film. Very good.
• It was a superb mix of nationalities and genres of films, and we enjoyed discussing the merits (and, sometimes, downsides) of various films. Particularly stayed with us: Aga, Butterflies, The Raft, Give Me Liberty, Advocate, The Reports on Sarah and Saleem, The Milk System, Nothing Fancy. (Probably others too -- a very good line-up!)

• Gotta Schwing: Great story of parallels between black jazz and Jewish persecution, wonderfully told, advocacy, seeing the real story via the art Give me Liberty: Wonderful connection across cultures, oppression of blacks in Milwaukee and Russians fleeing oppression, connecting. L'il Buck, Real Swan Marvelous story of a art coming out of culture and allowing a freedom that transcends and bridges cultures. Portrait of a Lady on Fire: Wonderful story of how we "see" and what opens us up to be able to represent another faithfully and fully alive.

• I really liked the documentaries and having the receptions each evening. I especially liked Dianna Kennedy, The River and the Wall and It Must Be Schwing.

• I enjoyed the variety of the films. My favorites were Portrait of a Lady on Fire, Clemency and Parasite. Most of the films stayed with me, I find myself recalling most of them in everyday conversation.

• Q&A's after films added a lot to appreciation of the films. Aga and Portrait of a Woman on Fire for their incredible cinematography.

• I so enjoyed the films I saw! Just really thoroughly loved them and think you all did such a great job selecting films. In particular I really loved Give Me Liberty & Aga, both were so profoundly touching & human. I also really enjoyed the Lil' Buck film & It Must Schwing.

• Toni Morrison

• The quality of the films selected was outstanding. I loved watching excellent films from many different countries.

• I only attended two films (Lil' Buck and Mr. Toilet) and I loved them both.

• Overall quality of films, venue, organization, invited speakers

• Diana Kennedy, Lions to Lambs, Toni Morrison

• The variety and quality of the films. The Brothers. The story of devotion to one another.

• The Wide variety Of the films.