



NEWSLETTER



Directing with a Purpose

A producer's and director's journey through the film industry by Camille Crawford

Vic Zimet's love for filmmaking took root early in his life, growing from a childhood spent making eight-millimeter films with his cousin. What began as a creative pastime eventually shaped his future, though Zimet's path to becoming a filmmaker was anything but straightforward. When it came time for college, he initially pursued a major in business, believing that practical knowledge of the field would be helpful. However, it did not take long for him to realize that the business world left him unfulfilled. Approaching the end of his college career, Zimet enrolled in a few film courses on a whim, and it was during these classes that he reconnected with the joy of filmmaking. That rediscovery was nothing short of transformative, setting him on a path that would change the course of his life.

"I realize what's important now, and that's freedom"

In the 1970s, Zimet entered the documentary filmmaking world with a pivotal role as an assistant editor on a documentary produced for NBC's Lifetime. This experience proved to be a defining moment in his career. Zimet was captivated by how editors could craft compelling stories from real-life footage, opening his eyes to the creative potential of documentary work. It was in the editing room that Zimet found his true passion—using film as a means of telling authentic stories about real people. This newfound inspiration drove him away from the bright lights of Hollywood, opting instead for the more intimate, often gritty world of documentaries. He faced numerous challenges, even going broke, but his commitment to his craft never wavered. For Zimet, the drive to tell stories that mattered outweighed the pursuit of commercial success.

Over the decades, Zimet built a remarkable career, collaborating closely with his wife and creative partner, Stephanie. Together, they produced a series of music-centered documentaries that delved into the lives of musicians, not only highlighting their creative processes but also offering a glimpse into how they shaped their lives around their art. Zimet takes great pride in the work he and Stephanie accomplished, especially considering their small production team. Competing against larger, well-funded studios, they managed to create influential, heartfelt films on a modest budget, often with just four core collaborators. Zimet attributes much of their success to their shared vision of staying true to their hearts and maintaining creative freedom. As Zimet reflects on his career, he is particularly grateful for the independence that allowed him to follow his passion without being beholden to external pressures.

Now 72 years old, Zimet's latest project holds special significance. After the recent passing of Stephanie, Zimet is dedicating his next film to her memory. The project will not only honor their life together but will also explore the painful and personal journey of Stephanie's battle with dementia. Zimet sees this film as an opportunity to share their story and comfort others facing similar struggles. Despite the deeply emotional nature of the work, Zimet approaches it with the same dedication he has brought to all his films—seeking truth, honesty, and a connection with his audience. He views filmmaking not simply as a career but as a lifelong passion and a means of personal expression. Even after decades in the industry, Zimet's love for filmmaking remains undiminished. For him, success is not measured in accolades or wealth but in the freedom to create films that matter on his own terms. As he embarks on this deeply personal project, Zimet is reminded once again of why he fell in love with filmmaking in the first place: the ability to tell stories that resonate, heal, and inspire.

Critique Corner

The Guilty by Camille Crawford

The a Danish thriller directed by Gustav Möller. The film is set almost entirely within an emergency call center and follows Asger Holm, a police officer demoted to desk duty after an internal investigation. One evening, Asger receives a distressing call from a woman named Iben, who claims she has been kidnapped. As the tension mounts, Asger tries to gather information and coordinate a rescue, all while navigating his own personal and professional turmoil. The film's minimalist setting focuses on Asger's voice interactions, creating an intense atmosphere through dialogue and sound design.

As the plot unfolds, Asger becomes deeply involved in the situation, taking personal responsibility for Iben's fate. However, the story takes unexpected turns, revealing that Asger's assumptions about the case may be misleading. Asger's own emotional struggles and past mistakes are interwoven into the narrative, creating a complex character study that highlights themes of guilt, redemption, and the limitations of perception. The Guilty is a gripping psychological thriller that maintains suspense without leaving the confines of a single room.



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FILM TRIVIA

Try your hand at some fun film and hollywood trivia! answers are revealed each issue.

1. Which 1975 thriller directed by Steven Spielberg features a great white shark terrorizing a small resort town?
2. What is the name of the fictional African country where the superhero Black Panther is set?
3. Which actress became the youngest-ever recipient of the Academy Award for Best Actress at age 21 for her role in Silver Linings Playbook (2012)?

last months answers:

1. Forrest Gump 2. Beauty and The Beast 3. George Lucas

FEBRUARY UPCOMING EVENTS

LA VIE EN ROSE FEBRUARY. 2

Unitarian-Universalist Fellowship | 4:00pm

The 2007 biographical drama that tells the tumultuous life story of the legendary French singer Edith Piaf. Directed by Olivier Dahan, the film traces Piaf's journey from her impoverished childhood on the streets of Paris to her rise to international stardom. It delves into her early struggles, including her abandonment by her mother, her time spent in a brothel, and her discovery by nightclub owner Louis Leplée, who helped launch her singing career. The film also explores her passionate romances, battles with addiction, and the emotional depth of her songs, which were heavily influenced by the hardships and tragedies she endured.

The Temple Bet Yam | 7:00pm

Join us for a Valentine's Day party like no other, where everyone is invited to celebrate love, friendship, and the joy of cinema! Whether you're sharing the evening with a partner, friends, or flying solo, you'll enjoy a specially curated selection of award-winning short films that capture the many forms of romance, connection, and self-discovery. The night promises more than just great films – expect fun surprises. Come for the movies, stay for the camaraderie, and make this Valentine's Day one to remember!

VALENTINES DAY PARTY FEBRUARY. 12

THE GUILTY FEBRUARY. 21

The Waterworks | 7:00pm

Thomas Möller's 2018 Danish thriller that masterfully demonstrates how limitation can breed innovation in filmmaking. The film centers on Asger Holm, a police officer temporarily assigned to emergency dispatch duty while under investigation for an undisclosed incident. Over one night, he receives a call from Iben, a woman who has been abducted by her ex-husband. Confined to his desk and armed only with a phone, Asger must try to save her while uncovering increasingly disturbing details about the situation.

The St. Augustine Yacht Club | 6:30pm

Plastic is vital in so many ways to our modern way of life and well-being—but not all forms of it. In search of why more and more single-use plastic debris enters the ocean despite all efforts to recycle, SINGLE-USE PLANET goes upstream to where millions of tons of raw plastic are being made. Can the powerful industry be persuaded to temper their production of single-use plastic?

SINGLE USE PLANET FEBRUARY. 25

Film Society Highlights

Two of Us by Joesph Marx

A very appreciative audience was treated to this terrific French film, which delicately explored the hidden relationship between its two women protagonists. The themes of love, compassion, and the importance of caring for others resonated deeply with those in attendance, sparking meaningful discussions. The audience lingered long after the screening, engaging in an in-depth analysis of the film's emotional layers, complex characters, and poignant message. The evening, however, was bittersweet as the absence of Anne Marie Laine, leader of the Francophone Club and a beloved partner in the French Film Series, was keenly felt.



TWO OF US

Anne Marie, who passed away in late December, had always brought her vast knowledge of French cinema and her unique insights to such events. Her presence would have added yet another layer of depth to the conversation. Her passing is a great loss, not only to her family and friends, but to the entire St. Augustine Film Society. Anne Marie's passion for film, her warmth, and her dedication to fostering cultural exchange through cinema will be truly missed by all who had the pleasure of knowing her.

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A BIG THANKS TO OUR NEWSLETTER STAFF!

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