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Photo by Spotted

Ann Palica, left, Director of Special Events at the film festival, chats with writer/director Alex Karpovsky ("The Hole Story") and writer/director Garth Donovan ("Everyone's Got One") before the start of the awards ceremony at The Pinehills (For the Patriot Ledger/Matthew Healey).

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July 27, 2006

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Plymouth Independent Film Festival doubles in year two

July 26, 2006 | Old Colony Memorial

By Charles Mathewson, MPG Newspapers



PLYMOUTH – PIFF – the second annual Plymouth Independent Film Festival – had some attendees wondering when PIFF will stand for Plymouth International Film Festival.

In their second year, festival organizers more than doubled the number of offerings. In three days, the festival screened more than 100 films, and hosted more than a dozen workshops and plenty of social events. Attendees compared it to the Boston Film Festival, noting how much more Plymouth offered.

> NOW HEAR THIS: Check out these fun sound clips from the Plymouth Film festivities...

- Click here to listen to part of Patti Ross' hilarious comedy set at the Radisson Friday night.

- Click here to listen to John Fiore talk about winning the best feature film award at the festival for his entry, "Johnny Slade's Greatest Hits."



The crew – Staff of the Plymouth Independent Film Festival pose following the awards ceremony Saturday night at the Summerhouse in The Pinehills.

Staff photo/Wesley Ennis



Click on thumbnails to enlarge

about winning the best feature film award at the festival for his entry, "Johnny Slade's Greatest Hits."

The Future Filmmakers Felix awards Thursday afternoon recognized the works of students.

The opening reception Thursday night at Plimoth Plantation was a remarkable night of entertainment and socializing. Reed player Stan Strickland with drummer Bob Moses rocked the place with their original take on jazz.

The screenings and workshops began Friday and ran through Sunday night.

The films were short and feature length, documentary, satire, comedy, drama and a couple of classics.

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A townie audience sat on the lawn near Plymouth Rock Friday night. Before the free showing of *Casablanca* on a big, inflatable screen, they howled at *Discovering America's Home Town*. A group of young Plymouthers wrote and produced the short satire. It sent up everything Plymouth in a way only residents could fully appreciate.

While *Casablanca* rolled, Patti Ross's outlandish humor filled the ballroom at The Radisson in a benefit for the Jesse Cooper Foundation.

The most commonly heard comment was the impossibility of seeing more than a fraction of what the festival offered.

The main focus was on the foundations of cinema verite in America. Documentary filmmakers D.A. Pennebaker, Robert Drew, Albert Maysles and the godfather of American documentary, Richard Leacock, participated in a variety of ways. At the center was a Saturday afternoon panel discussion about the future of documentary.

The festival screened many of their films, and hosted discussions between the filmmakers and their audiences.

Festival founder and director Lisa Mattei handed out awards in *The Summerhouse* at The Pinehills Saturday night. The incredible variety of people attending reflected the variety of the festival.

The final screenings late into Sunday night included repeats of the award-winning entries.



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Film festival fundraiser

March 22, 2006 | *Old Colony Memorial*

By **Genevieve Wheeler**, *MPG Newspapers*



Do you want butter? Local artist Jim Curran designed the logo for the Plymouth Independent Film Festival.

PLYMOUTH – Frank Sinatra’s crooning away and I’ve got a glass of cabernet to sip. The East Bay Grille has raised a tent in the back for the evening’s event, complete with propane tanks for heat and a fully staffed bar for refreshments. An inflatable movie screen comfortably occupies a corner. I had no idea such a thing existed until last Sunday night.

Next to it, two men laugh, tell jokes, and sell “Sopranos” memorabilia, while eager ticket-holders pose for photos and munch on chicken and prime rib. The two men, John Fiore and Frank Santorelli, play Gigi and Georgie on said HBO program. They’re in Plymouth to show Fiore’s new movie, “Johnny Slade’s Greatest Hits.”

The showing will raise funds for the town’s second annual film festival in July. Plymouth Independent Film Festival (PIFF) staff put this fundraiser together in three months, I’m told.

The original plan proved too expensive to pull through, PIFF director Lisa Mattei said, but they still had the venue booked.

A DVD producer, Mattei met Fiore and Santorelli working on a film project last August. Fiore had toured his film in Canada, Germany, Florida and Boston. PIFF special events coordinator Ann Palicia asked if he’d like to tour in Plymouth too. Fiore, a supporter of the film festival, agreed. PIFF called it “An Evening With the Sopranos” because the show’s final season kicked off this month.

Fiore and Santorelli live in Massachusetts. Fiore grew up in Somerville and earned his degree at Suffolk University. They shot most of the Johnny Slade scenes in Melrose.

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Entries – Plymouth Independent Film Festival director Lisa Mattei organizing last year’s event. This year’s festival is

scheduled for July 20
Staff photo/Wesley Ennis

comedy.

Johnny Slade, a washed-up lounge singer, gets the chance of a lifetime singing songs like "My Funny Stupid Shoes," written by a silent partner, a club owner named Mr. Samantha.

Coincidentally, the morning papers report mobsters like Jimmy "The Shoes" have turned up beaten or dead. It doesn't take long for Johnny to put together the pieces, and soon, he's stuck in the middle of a mob war, taking requests left and right.

There's no point giving away the ending; some new scenes, Fiore says, have changed the movie dramatically. It will still be a comedy, but the creators have added a key component to the plot. Plymoutheans were the last to see the film in its current form.

"Johnny Slade's Greatest Hits" revels in the absurd. An intimidating mob boss' office is so cramped, Johnny has no room to pull back a chair. The same boss turns up at a gig in a ridiculous wig and moustache because his inner artiste desperately wants to hear the songs he's penned.

Shot in 35-mm film and funded with \$500,000, the independent movie launched Fiore's debut as an executive producer. He wrote the original Johnny Slade story and stars in the production. Santorelli plays Lou Genova, Mr. Samantha's right hand man.

It is exactly the type of film PIFF supports. The fundraiser, a success Mattei tells me, will pay for a bigger film festival this year.

"We have some important guests coming in," she said. "We have the founders of Direct Cinema coming. Basically, everyone that I studied with at Emerson will show up. It's going to be fun."

"Johnny Slade's Greatest Hits" hits the theaters later this year. The Plymouth Independent Film Festival launches July 20.

In an age of angst-filled mob flicks like "The Godfather" and "Goodfellas," "Johnny Slade's Greatest Hits" takes a surprising turn. It's a

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By Susan Seashburg Wall

Plymouth Independent Film Festival

VIEW OF A PIECE OF FILM HISTORY AND THE DISCOVERY OF A VIBRANT FILM FESTIVAL

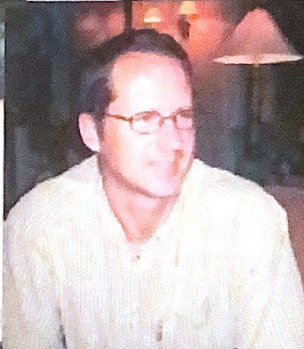
Once upon a time, there were a few documentary filmmakers, five to be exact, who shared a certain vision about the relationship between film and life. That vision relied upon the following aesthetic principle: the act of filming must present the filmmaker's view of the life that takes place in the camera's presence - without the camera or filmmaker interrupting or destroying the life witnessed. This last part is the trick - and very difficult to do - in fact, prior to the work of these filmmakers, impossible. In the late 1950s and early 1960 - now almost fifty years ago - these filmmakers invented mobile crystal sync-sound film equipment and then set out to make the films that embodied their cinematic vision. In so doing, they revolutionized cinema aesthetics and production methods internationally and influenced generations of filmmakers.

This year, the Plymouth Independent Film Festival (PIFF), paid tribute to this cinematic vision, to those filmmakers and their descendants by gathering them together in a "family reunion" for its core program, a special tribute entitled "A Sense of Being There: With Richard Leacock and Collaborators." Richard Leacock was honored with PIFF's Maverick Award for seventy years of filmmaking. Leacock made his first film, *CANARY BANANAS*, at age 15, shooting on black-and-white film.

This year was particularly wonderful because all the living filmmakers from the original collaboration arrived to share cinematic history with the honoree, Richard Leacock: Robert Drew, Albert Maysles and D.A. (Donn Alan) Pennebaker. The four were joined by a host of Leacock's former students and collaborators. Among them were Nell Cox, Gloriana Davenport, Mary Jane Doherty, John Gianino, Valerie Lalonde, Ross McElwee, Ann McMahon, Robb Moss, Michel Negroponte, David Parry, James Rutenbeck, Arzanti Willis and Susan Wall (your article author).

For three days, in a series of screenings (both retrospective and current), panel discussions, workshops and question-and-answer sessions, the filmmakers presented a fascinating view of a shared and on-going film history. More than forty films were screened and discussed. For many of us, it was truly a homecoming. We saw colleagues we hadn't seen in years. Intense film discussions were held over breakfast - for those who made it, lunch, dinner and into the wee hours.

It all came about, I later discovered, because Lisa Mittle, the founder and Director of the PIFF approached Gloriana Davenport, South shore resident and M.I.T. faculty member, to program the 2006



decades from top left
Historic photo of the founders of the cinema vision
revolution together in Plymouth, 2006. From left to
right: Richard Leacock, E.A. Pennebaker, Albert Maysles,
Robert Drew. Photo by Carlton Bassant.

Plymouth Credentials - The Plymouth Film Festival
arrives! Photo by Susan Seashburg Wall.

Ann McMahon, filmmaker, celebrates as a great gathering
of the clan during the Plymouth Independent Film
Festival. Photo by Susan Seashburg Wall.

Douglas Hanna-Davis, High Plain Films, recipient of the
Plymouth Independent Film Festival Maverick Award,
honored at the Festival Awards Party. Photo by Susan
Seashburg Wall.

Filmmaker Nell Cox at the Plymouth Independent Film
Festival reception. Photo by Susan Seashburg Wall.

Carlton Bassant assisted Susan Seashburg Wall as
photographer for the article. Photo by Susan
Seashburg Wall.

Richard Leacock, The Plymouth Independent Film
Festival's Maverick Award Winner and Father to the Film
Family standing a portrait, 2006. Photo by Carlton
Bassant.

Albert Maysles (right) and Douglas Hanna-Davis, at the
Plymouth Independent Film Festival Awards Party. Photo
by Susan Seashburg Wall.

Michel Negroponte and Susan Seashburg Wall at lunch
on Plymouth Harbor. Photo by Carlton Bassant.

Intense discussions were the order of the celebration.
Here Ross McElwee (left) and Gloriana Davenport at the
Plymouth Independent Film Festival Awards Party.

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The support of companies and individuals plays a vital role in making possible all the programs and events at the Plymouth Independent Film Festival. Sponsors and supporters receive many special benefits including access to private parties, passes to festival screenings and events, and VIP ticket service. Please contact Lisa for more info at (508) 801-2530 or email lisa@plyfilmfest.org

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Glorianna Davenport and Evan ???

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Thanks to everyone for attending and supporting independent film!

The Plymouth Independent Film Festival
presents...

An Evening with the Sopranos

SUNDAY, MARCH 19, 2006

Johnny Slade's
Greatest Hits

★ 2006 ★
★ PREMIERE ★
★ SCREENING ★

Event
PROGRAM



The 2nd Annual Plymouth Independent Film Festival • JULY 20 - 23, 2006

This summer, PIFF '06 returns from July 20 - 23 with films, workshops, panel discussions, surprise guests, and events! Stay tuned for announcements in the newspapers and on our website, www.plyfilmfest.org. Not only will the Festival provide entertainment and a forum for important issues, such as environment and diversity, it will also be a hub for networking and promoting what is happening in our community, while providing an engaging platform for film appreciation and the advancement of education, the arts, and technologies.

An Evening with the Sopranos



- 6:00 PM -
Cocktails

- 7:00 PM -
Dinner

- 8:00 PM -
Movie Screening

- 9:20 PM -
Meet & Greet



John Fiore received his BAS degree in Criminal Justice from Suffolk University and moved to New York. Since then he appeared as Gigi Cestone in *"The Sopranos"*, Vinnie Salemo on *"The Guiding Light"*, Hendricks in *"All My Children"*, Detective Tony Profaci for nine seasons on *"Law & Order"*, and Albert in *"NYPD Blue"*. Fiore also appeared as Jake in the movie *"Mystic Pizza"* and Kinky in *"Meet The Parents"*. He has appeared in over 200 television commercials.



Frank Santorelli, Georgie the bartender on *"The Sopranos"*, is a native Bostonian. His first appearance on national TV was on *"Late Night with Conan O'Brien"*. Santorelli has been featured in the movie *"Meet The Parents"*, NBC's *"Last Comic Standing"*, VH-1, MTV, HBO, Showtime, *"Comedy Showcase with Louie Anderson"*, *"Evening at the Improv"*, and A&E's *"Caroline's Comedy Hour"*.

Johnny Slade's Greatest Hits (2005)

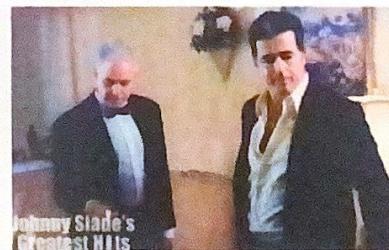
is the story of a struggling lounge singer who could never get a break. Johnny's luck changes when he lands a gig at a hot new club. Little does he know that the club is owned by a former high-profile mob boss, now in hiding. The Dean Martin wannabe soon learns his "Greatest Hits" are more than humble tunes. As his popularity rises, Johnny begins to draw a strange correlation between the songs that he is asked to perform and the morning newspaper crime reports...



Directed by ... Larry Blamire
Writing credits ... Larry Blamire
... John Fiore (story)
Produced by
Executive Producer ... John Fiore
Co-Executive Producer ... Dolores Sirianini
Co-Producer ... Stacey Babb
Producer ... F. Miguel Valenti



Cast (in credits order)
Johnny Slade ... John Fiore
Mr. Samantha Beechwood ... Vincent Curatola
Jerry Kaminski ... Robert Giarchina
Lou Genova ... Richard Portnow
Angela ... Frank Santorelli
Agent O'Donnell ... Jennifer Blaire
Agent McDonnell ... Dossy Peabody
Steve ... Richard Snee
Red Peters ... Ray Iannicelli
Charlie Payne ... Douglas Stevens
Al ... Dolores Sirianini
Tully ... John Tromboli
Victor ... Eugene Boles
Donaldson ... Ken Cheeseman
Billy Toole ... Lonnie Farmer
Lloyd Dunnigan ... David Ian
Rebecca Chase ... Larry Blamire
Clerk ... Lynda Robinson
Dave (Golf Pro) ... Paula Plum
Bar & club patron ... Eric Murray
... John Pungitore



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