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Borrow 'hot docs' on DVD at the library

Clare Hanman



It is May, and to documentary aficionados all over Ontario, that means one and only one thing... Hot Docs! The Hot Docs Canadian International Documentary Festival may not come with all the Hollywood glamour of the Toronto International Film Festival, but it brings no less a variety of cinematic talent all together in one place.

The wonderful thing about documentary films is the fantastic variety of subjects. Can truth be stranger than fiction? Undoubtedly! It can also be incredibly fascinating. Here are a few award winners from past Hot Docs festivals that are available for you to borrow on DVD from the Halton Hills Public Library.

Take for example one of the Top-10 Audience Favourite winners from 2006, *Wordplay*. In this film you can discover the amazing world of crossword puzzles, from the people who create them to the people who compete to solve them. Included are some surprising interviews with crossword fans—many of whom are household names.

Another Audience Favourite this time from 2007 is a film out of the UK called *Garbage Warrior*. This film profiles Mike Reynolds, an architect who has spent his 40-year career designing homes constructed mostly from recycled materials, refuse and yes, plain-old-ordinary dirt.

The 2008 winner for Best Canadian

Feature was *Junior*. This film is a real-life portrait of the coaches, scouts, trainers, parents, and most importantly the determined young players in Canada's Major Junior Hockey League as they fiercely compete for the remote possibility of a future in the NHL.

Another Top-10 winner, this time from the festival in 2009, is *Inside Hana's Suitcase*. This film combines documentary with dramatic recreations to tell the story of "The Small Wings", a group of Japanese children, who with their teacher solve the mystery of an old battered suitcase they received from Auschwitz and thereby pieced together the story of Hana Brady, the suitcase's owner.

So next time you stop by the library to plan an evening of great film-festival watching, take a wander over to the non-fiction stacks. Shelved amongst the books are some genuine film-festival gems. For more information or to reserve any of these titles, visit www.hhpl.on.ca.

—Clare Hanman is a Technical Services librarian at Halton Hills Public Library



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