

THE GLOUCESTER INTER-CLUB ANNUAL FILM COMPETITION

Saturday 19th March 2016

Comments by judge HOWARD-SMITH

REQUIEM FOR CAFFEINE

Bristol Film & Video Society

'Requiem For Caffeine' is a very impressive and accomplished piece of film-making. The basic premise is a good one, comparing tea addiction to addiction to hard drugs, and this idea is slickly introduced in a superbly edited pre-credit sequence. I loved the drug-related shots of the spoon being warmed, and the 'cutting' of the tea leaves with a credit card. The sound effects during this sequence match the shots perfectly, and indeed the sound throughout the film can't be faulted. The well-chosen music was used sparingly at the beginning and end. The photography is excellent throughout, with very effective close-ups, a variety of camera angles, and a good tracking shot during part of the group discussion. The script is really well constructed and written. There were many really good reaction shots from various members of the group during the discussion. Some may say that in places there was slight over-acting, but this is a comedy after all and I found the acting style perfectly acceptable and appropriate - the actors played their parts very well. The punchline isn't strong and lacks surprise, but this is a minor quibble. Overall, this film is a delight, superbly made and highly entertaining. Many congratulations to all concerned in the making of this film.

GRAND CENTRAL STATION

Bristol Film & Video Society

This is an interesting, unusual short documentary about a project that never happened. There's some lovely photography, although there are rather a lot of fairly static shots. The narrator Tim has a good personality to get the story across in an interesting way. The sound recording is of very high quality and the script is well written. There's good use made of historical inserts and a map with an animated train. The music was well used and well chosen. 'Grand Central Station' is a technically competent piece of work which held the interest.

Howard-Smith's comments on other club entries have been removed from this document at the request of the 2018 Gloucester Inter-Club Film Competition planning committee. Ed.