

**The Gloucester Inter-Club Annual Film Competition**  
**Saturday 19 March 2016**  
**Keith Sheather (Judge) Written Assessment**

**Requiem for Caffeine (Bristol Film and Video Society)**

This was rated the overall winner by a substantial margin. It was a well crafted and executed satire on beverage addiction. It got off to a cracking start with an arresting montage of drug preparation, cleverly using distorted angles and lenses and sharply recorded sounds to disorientate the viewer and portray visually the heroine's state of mind. But although this opening montage was a classy act, for me the triumph of the film was the assured handling of the group discussion. This is one of the most difficult scenarios to pull off and the director handled the multitude of voices with assurance, getting her eyelines right, varying the shots and introducing telling c/as like the teapot on a chain. The ending was a little obvious, but that said acting, camerawork, sound and editing all contributed to a very 'professional' film.

**Grand Central Station (Bristol Film and Video Society)**

This was an oddity which couldn't make up its mind whether its subject was a joke or a serious proposal – namely the extension of a railway line from Bristol Temple Meads Station into the city centre ending in the middle of the gracious Georgian Queen Square. Nor could it make up its mind which century it was supposed to be in – Victorian or present day. If you weren't a Bristolian I would have thought the film would have highly confusing. I suspect too that someone had taken some evocative footage of a steam train in Bristol Docks and needed to make use of it as it was a mere red herring that held up the action before getting down to the real story. On the plus side it was well shot with a helpful animated map and lively presentation from the front man. Indeed his performance was the film's saving grace.

*Keith Sheather'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.*