

Arts & Entertainment

One-stop online shop caters to eclectic film buffs

By CHRIS CLAY
Staff

Sick of hearing about the latest big-budget Hollywood flick, films rife with explosions and car chases, but lacking in dramatic dialogue and plot?

A website created by Mississauga's Gary Tooze and devoted to award-winning, independent and foreign films might have the solution. The site, which can be accessed at www.dvd-beaver.com, caters to hardcore cinephiles.

"We call it eclectic cinema," said Tooze. "We don't focus only on French or Italian films, but a wide range of styles and filmmakers."

The site includes reviews from Tooze as well as professional critics such as Jonathan Rosenbaum from *The Chicago Reader*. There's also a link to www.amazon.com that allows people to buy films they've just read about.

Tooze makes a percentage from each sale generated in this fashion; he said he sold about 35,000 DVDs last year via the site.

However, the strength of the website is its comparisons of DVDs, he added.

Ever wonder if the new director's cut of your favourite film is really the best version available? The site offers technical comparisons, including screen shots, extras or bonus material information and bitrate transfer details (bitrate transfer determines the overall quality of the picture when the movie is copied from film to DVD).

"To people who are big into film, this is truly valuable," Tooze said.

While you might find a review about the latest Ozu Yasujiro film, Tooze still makes the occasional foray into commercial cinema. The last two movies he reviewed were *Blood Diamond* and *Rocky Balboa*.

"With a film like *Blood Diamond*, they're trying to expose a wrong, but they do it with typical Hollywood panache," said Tooze. "In general, the more I venture into the Hollywood scenario the more disappointed I am. Many of the films don't get under your skin (like a good foreign film can). I'm just as gullible as the next guy and I can get caught up in expansive action sequences. Still, I find (foreign films) tend to focus on social issues or the telling of a simple story rather than trying to scrape the last few bucks out of your pocket with flashy colours and sounds."

The website has about 1,000 comparisons and 4,000 reviews. In 2006, Tooze said, 3.8 million people from 100 countries visited the site.

"Being able to appreciate a unique film is the same principle that causes people to venture forth into international cuisine," said Tooze. "If you're willing to try sushi or Indian food, chances are you're willing to watch foreign film. We expose people to alternate choices they might not normally



In review — Gary Tooze runs a website that reviews smaller, foreign and independent films from his home. *Photo by Peter McCusker*

With DVD Beaver covering the obscure film selections, another website devoted to all sorts of movies is trying to cater to film buffs.

Daily Film Dose is run by Meadowvale's Alan Bacchus. Each day, Bacchus posts a new review, covering everything

from film classics to new theatre releases to DVDs. It doesn't matter if the films are new or old, indie or commercial, experimental or mainstream, Bacchus is going to give his two cents.

For more information, visit www.dailyfilmdose.com.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION CENTRE 2

CLASS ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR HERRIDGE FEEDERMAIN

The Study

The Region of Peel, through its consultants, KMK Consultants Limited, initiated a Class Environmental Assessment (Class EA) Study to select a suitable route alignment for the Herridge Feedermain from Lorne Park Water Treatment Plant to the Herridge reservoir in the City of Mississauga. The Region's Water and Wastewater Servicing Plan, May 1999 and the current master plan review have both identified the need to construct the Herridge Feedermain to meet the Region of Peel water supply requirements. The Study Area is shown on the plan provided below.

The Process

The study is being conducted in accordance with the requirements of "Schedule C" projects of the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment document (June 2000). The Class EA process includes public and review agency consultation, an evaluation of alternatives, an assessment of the impacts of the proposed works and identification of measures to mitigate any adverse impacts. Public and review agency consultation is a key element of the Class EA process and we wish to ensure that anyone

