

## Looking Ahead: Green Mountain Film Festival

The fifth annual Green Mountain Film Festival, consisting of more than 30 feature and documentary films in two programs over 10 days, will take place March 22-31 in Montpelier's Savoy Theater and City Hall Arts Center.

Focus on Film, the presenter, has selected films to appeal to young people and adults, films about cultures very different from ours (Afghanistan, Iran, Egypt, Palestine, South Africa, Israel) or somewhat dif-

ferent (Norway, Iceland, Chile, Czechoslovakia, Ireland, Poland, Germany, France), films on significant topics (abortion, gay Scouts, persistent issues connected to the Holocaust, class in America, preservation of forests, restorative justice, Native American sacred grounds), but above all, films for those who treasure the experience of finely made works, whether dramatic, comedic, romantic or merely informative.



Paul Franklin Dano in *L.I.E.*, showing March 23rd, 27th and 29th.

Opening night's feature film will be Poland's *The Big Animal*, from a script by the late celebrated director Krzysztof Kieslowski, and directed by his colleague, the actor Jerzy Stuhr. Kieslowski is widely known for his "The Decalogue" and his "ThreeColors Trilogy." He died in 1996, but not before complet-

ing the script of *The Big Animal*, a comic fable about a circus camel abandoned in rural Poland. *The opening night showing at 7 p.m. March 22 in the Savoy Theater will be followed by a reception and party. Two additional showings will be held March 25 at 8:30 p.m. and March 27 at 4 p.m., both in the Savoy.*

### Also featuring:

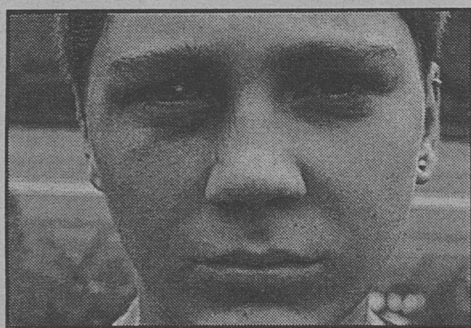
▼ **L.I.E. (United States)** is the

controversial film directed by Michael Cuesta and starring Brian Cox. It's a coming-of-age drama that touches on pedophilia, yet avoids stereotypes and cliché responses. Recently, it received the most nominations in the Independent Film Project's "Spirit" awards (the anti-Oscars). Cox plays a middle-aged ex-Marine and Paul Franklin Dano is a 15-year-old boy alienated from his father and teetering on emotional chaos. The relationship that grows between them is remarkably complex and filled with insight. *March 23 at 9 p.m., March 27 at 6:30 p.m. and March 29 at 2 p.m.*

▼ **Oliver Button Is a Star (United States)** is a family film based on a book by Tomie diPaola that features diPaola and

several other successful adults who recount difficult childhoods caused by their being perceived as different by others, and by themselves. *March 23 and March 30 at noon.*

▼ **Scout's Honor (United States)** is about the controversy surrounding gays in the Boy Scouts. Inspiration for the film is the campaign by young Eagle Scout Steven Cozza, who is not gay, for tolerance and understanding. *March 28 at 6:30 p.m.*



▼ **Trembling Before G-d (United States)** is directed by Sandi Simcha DuBowski. She confronts the experiences of Orthodox and Hasidic gays and lesbians. Rabbi Joshua Chasan will lead a

post-screening discussion. *March 24 at 6:30 p.m.*

▼ **A program of short films** by Vermont filmmakers will be shown on the Vermont Traveling Filmmaker's Program. *March 24 at 2 p.m.*

Single ticket prices are \$6.50 or less with the purchase of a pass. Student and senior tickets are discounted. The Savoy Theater is located at 26 Main St. and the City Hall Arts Center is at 39 Main St., Montpelier. For further information, call (802) 229-0598. ■

## poetry: vase and thunder by amanda irwin

Empty, yearning to be filled  
with flowers, with sentiment,  
with something a little more serious,  
more valuable than stale air and dry dust.  
The breeze blows over the rim  
like a whistle in a canyon, Grand Canyon.  
The high pitch accentuates the need  
for stems, twigs, dirty water.  
There is nothing of weight  
to add strength and sturdiness to the base,  
and with thunder, it tumbles over,  
cracking superficially.  
It slowly breaks down,  
and little by little it falls apart,  
chipping off and losing pieces.

The pieces of my body  
lie in chunks on the table,  
and the dust of my soul  
drifts wantonly,  
away from me.  
Because of the thunder  
I have lost every part of me,  
and I will soon be swept away,  
into a cupped hand,  
into a bin of crumpled paper,  
moldy leftovers, sharp can corners.  
The air that once filled me  
will be inhaled into another's lungs,  
and I will no longer exist.

You are the thunder of my destruction.  
You startle and rattle,  
too loud to be heard,  
too quiet to be understood.  
If I had listened closer,  
maybe I would have noticed  
the simple anger,  
the nameless pleasure you took  
in the distortion of my surface.  
I should have seen it coming,  
should have noticed the way  
you ran your lightning bolt fingers  
over my smooth ceramic façade,  
allowing my dust to coat  
the ridges of your fingerprints,  
cake between the lines.  
If I had read between the lines  
of your rumblings,  
I would have realized  
your ability to crack me,  
to shatter me  
by hardly raising your voice,  
let alone your hand.

A twenty-year-old student at Keene State College, Amanda Irwin lives in Lebanon, New Hampshire. She studies English and Women's Studies and dabbles in more specific areas of gender and sexual studies as she explores her omnisexuality more fully.



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