

# Cinema Eye

Daily Movie Reviews, News & Commentary

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## TIFF - More Capsule Reviews (Issue 4)

September 10th, 2009 by Gilbert Seah



The Toronto International Film Festival BEGINS TODAY!!!!!!  
Additional capsule reviews will be posted to this set every 3rd day!

TIFF 2009 Capsule Reviews:

ALL FALL DOWN (Canada 2009) \*\*\*  
Directed by Philip Hoffman



Director Philip Hoffman's meticulously directed experimental documentary is a juxtaposition of two stories. One is that of the life of writer George Lachlan Brown settling in the Normandy Township that takes a devastating course of poverty and the other of an equally tragic historical native who loses her rights after marrying a

**A SHINE OF RAINBOWS (Ireland/Canada 2009) \*\*\***

Directed by Vic Sarin



A bullied boy, 8-year old Tomas (John Bell) is adopted from the local orphanage by a charming young woman Maire O'Donnell (Connie Neilson) unable to bear a child. The woman is all smiles but the boy has to win the heart of her hardened husband (a scruffy Aidan Quinn) as well as the village children to stay in the home. As the film progresses, Tomas adopts an abandoned baby seal while mother Maire falls ill and eventually dies. If the story does not already spell tearjerker, director Vic Sarin shows no mercy at pulling at the heartstrings. Bring lots (and lots) of Kleenex. A SHINE OF RAINBOWS, set in the picturesque Irish wind-swept Corrie Island allows Sarin, who is also cinematographer to also show his prowess in this field. Very Irish, with lots of folk tunes Irish dancing and Celtic charm!

**A SERIOUS MAN (USA 2009) \*\*\*\***

Directed by Ethan and Joel Coen



A SERIOUS MAN plays very much like the Coen Brothers last two movies, from the abrupt ending (NO COUNTRY FOR OLD MEN) to the sequence of unrelated life events that make no sense in the realm of things (BURN AFTER READING). In A SERIOUS MAN, the protagonist is one, trying to make sense of the craziness that is going on around him. The most important element in his life right then is his tenure professorship. Never mind his wife is having an affair with his good friend, his brother is getting into trouble with the law or his children sidetracked from school. A SERIOUS MAN reminds one of Quentin Tarantino's INGLOURIOUS BASTERDS in which the director makes the movie he wants and everyone else who disagrees can just f\*\*\* off. A SERIOUS MAN is absolutely absorbing, terribly funny in the Coen Brothers sort of way and incredibly imaginative. The fact the characters (most of whom are played by relative unknowns) speak Hebrew and Yiddish illustrate, as in the Tarantino movie, that great directors put a lot of detail and research into the language of their movies.

**SOAP (Canada 2009) \*\*\* (Short)**

Directed by Dusty Mancinelli

Director Mancinelli's third short is a professional (in terms of production values) looking short that has all the elements of a neat little black thriller. Housewife/mother Eileen has her daily routine laid out for her. She has the customary sexual intercourse with her husband, cooks, cleans, looks after the baby and has a hunky lover who visits during the day. A slip on the SOAP during his shower leaves the hunk dead and Eileen with a problem on her hands. Suspense, keen observations of life in the suburbs and wry and black humour keep SOAP moving along. Mancinelli films most of his action pieces with a steady camera with his subject(s) moving in and out of the frame. It would be curious to see what he can achieve with a few tracking shots. SOAP plays with the Canada Shorts Programme 3.