

RIO DE JANEIRO INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

LAUNCHES

"27 SCENES ABOUT JORGEN LETH"

"27 Scenes About Jorgen Leth," film critic Amir Labaki's feature-length film debut, will have its Brazilian premiere at the Rio de Janeiro International Film Festival 2009. The first feature-length production of IT'S ALL TRUE - International Documentary Film Festival will screen in the Expectations 2009 program, following its gala premiere at CPH:DOX 2008.

"27 Scenes About Jorgen Leth" portrays one of contemporary Europe's principal documentary filmmakers. In over 40 years of activity, Leth has directed 45 films, including conceptual shorts, anthropological studies, sports films, portraits, and travelogues.

In March and April of 2008, Danish filmmaker Jorgen Leth was paid tribute by the 13th It's All True - International Documentary Film Festival with projections and master classes in São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro. He was filmed during his visit by the festival director, Amir Labaki, who prepared a portrait of the man and his work.

The filmmaker's ideas illuminate his films - and vice-versa - in the documentary. Leth discusses his formative years, his work as a poet and sports journalist, his decision to leave his native Denmark for Haiti, and his collaboration with Lars von Trier in "The Five Obstructions" (2003).

"In Leth's work, documentary and experimentation are synonymous," affirms Labaki. "His production is a free territory of co-existence and dialogue between real and fictional elements - and recently, even animation."

WHO IS JORGEN LETH

Jorgen Leth was born in Aarhus, Denmark, in June, 1937. After studying literature and anthropology, Leth began his career in the late 1950s as a cultural journalist, writing mainly about jazz and cinema in Copenhagen. He began creating work as a poet at the same time, which has resulted in ten books.

Connected to the literary and artistic vanguard of the 1960s, Jorgen Leth directed his first short in 1963, "Stop for Bud," an homage to the jazz pianist Bud Powell (1924-1966). In 1968, the experimental documentary short "The Perfect Human" established Leth as an international name. In 2003, the Danish filmmaker Lars von Trier co-directed with Leth a revisit of "The Perfect Human" in "The Five Obstructions."

At the beginning of the 1970s, Leth made an enormously successful series of sports documentaries dedicated principally to his childhood passion for cycling. The most celebrated of these is entitled "A Sunday in Hell" (1977), which follows the classic Spring race between Paris and Roubaix with an epic tone.

At the same time, the Danish filmmaker directed a series of anthropological studies inspired by the Polish anthropologist Bronislaw Manilowski. "Life in Denmark" (1972) and "Good and Evil" (1975) portray his own home country. In 1989, Leth retraced Manilowski's path through the Trobriand Islands in "Notes on Love."

Travel documentaries form another highlight of Leth's filmography. He came to Brazil in the mid-1980s to film part of his study of toys from around the world, "Moments of Play" (1986), with a soundtrack by Tom Jobim. He then shot "Notebook from China" (1987) and "66 Scenes from America" (1982), followed in 2002 by "New Scenes from America."

Leth first went to Haiti when he was hired to shoot a thriller (Haiti Express) in 1983, and he has resided in Jacmel since the beginning of the 1990s. In the following years his new home would inspire him to shoot the documentaries "Haiti. Untitled" (1996) and "Dreamers" (2002).

It's All True paid homage to Jorgen Leth with a retrospective of his work in 2003, and once again (with his presence) in 2008. He is currently dedicated to making "The Erotic Human," which was partially filmed in Brazil.

BIOGRAPHY OF THE DIRECTOR

Amir Labaki was born in São Paulo in 1963. A film critic and alumnus of the University of São Paulo, he is a writer for the Folha de S. Paulo and columnist for Valor Econômico. He is founder and director of It's All True - International Documentary Film Festival and board member of the International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam (IDFA). Author of more than ten books on film and history, he has also written a play (Lenya) and directed the short film "Eduardo Escorel, An Intellectual as Cinéaste" (2006). "27 Scenes About Jorgen Leth" is his feature-length debut.

CREW

Screenplay and Direction: Amir Labaki

Producers: Amir Labaki & Mônica Guimarães

Editor: André Finotti

Music: Luis Felipe Labaki

Animation: Élcio Miazaki

Cinematography: Henrique Rodriguez (Interviews), Léo Nabuco and Renato Cândido de Lima (Workshops)

Clearance: Marione Tomazoni

Post-Production: Estúdios MEGA/MEGACOLOR

Support: Baticum

An IT'S ALL TRUE production

Screenings:

27/09 Sunday - 5:40pm Est Vivo Gávea

28/09 Monday - 12:30pm Espaço de Cinema 3

28/09 Monday - 8:30pm Espaço de Cinema 3

01/10 Thursday - 4pm Cine Glória