



ADVOCATE *insider*

May 17, 2008

Cannes Day One -- Panda Attack!

I'm stacking up some of my early posts, which I had technical difficulty in getting up (hey, you try asking in French for WiFi at 3 in the morning).

Day One began with the almost traditional "stunt" of a photo shoot. Cannes is famous for stars and would-be stars angling for attention -- from topless actresses on the beach to more elaborate fare like Jerry Seinfeld dressing up in a bee costume and "flying" over the main drag the Croisette to promote "Bee Movie." This year it was Jack Black surrounded by two dozen people in giant panda bear suits to get attention for "Kung Fu Panda." In stark contrast to this fluff, the Opening Night film "Blindness" was screening. Based on the wonderful novel by Jose Saramago (if you liked Cormac McCarthy's "The Road," you'll like Saramago's "Blindness"), it stars Julianne Moore, Mark Ruffalo, Danny Glover, and Gael Garcia Bernal. I read the book to prepare for the film and -- in typical Cannes fashion -- instead of seeing the movie I have to watch Black do roundhouses and goofing around with giant pandas while hordes of photographers are screaming his name. Since I don't see the movie, I feel obliged to skip the journalist roundtables and a chance to chat with the lovely Moore and (sigh) Bernal. Welcome to Cannes.

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