



JANUARY 7, 2011

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**Michael Giltz**

Freelance writer and raconteur  
Posted: May 11, 2010 08:06 PM

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# Cannes 2010 Preview Video: Stroll Down the Croisette!

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Bonjour, cinephiles. I'll be covering the Cannes Film Festival for Huffington Post, the blog site [Queersighted](#) (I'll be covering the gay angle of Cannes for them), my [awesome entertainment podcast Showbiz Sandbox](#) and anyone who wants to send me money. (Yep, Cannes is expensive and freelance gigs are few and far between.) *Robin Hood* debuts on Wednesday, though in a rather deflating move, it's been screened for critics everywhere and already reviewed (poorly, for the most part) by the trades, major papers like the New York Daily News and others. You can't help feeling silly flying out to Cannes and then having the movies shown to journalists back

home. But of course Cannes hates this and fights it whenever possible -- it's the constant tug between exclusivity and wanting stars from big Hollywood movies to walk the red carpet.

But enough griping. The festival looks very promising, with new works from major directors like Ken Loach (a late addition), Mike Leigh, Bertrand Tavernier, Doug Liman (the lone American in Competition), Woody Allen, Oliver Stone, a strong Asian contingent, Stephen Frears, rising talent Xavier Dolan (who hopes to capitalize on his major success last Cannes -- *I Killed My Mother* -- with his second film, *Heartbeats* aka *Les Amours Imaginaires*), Jean-Luc Godard, Rumanian Cristi Puiu, and many many others. The longest film at the fest is *Carlos*, a look at the assassin Carlos The Jackal directed by Olivier Assayas. I always insist on watching whatever random film happens to be the longest film screening at Cannes and it quite often pays huge dividends.

The Iceland volcano is STILL mucking with airplane travel but for the most part people are delayed, rather than frustrated entirely. So let me close with some video: this is a stroll along part of the main drag at Cannes and a look at the movie posters for upcoming films that wrap around the major hotels. This year's crop is decidedly mundane compared to years past, which is another sign of the economy.

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**aquaman2008** 01:38 PM on 5/12/2010

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Thank you Michael for your wonderful videos. I am looking forward to reading your upcoming blogs about Cannes and your list of the best movies.

I am personally not looking forward to watching Robin Hood. When I heard about the movie last year, my reaction was same as it had been about the remake of - 3:10 to Yuma ...Russel Crow cannot play these roles. He is too fat and too arrogant to be playing the characters that great Glen Ford and Early Flynn played.

Just my humble opinion. Keep up the good work !

Thanks.

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**aquaman2008** 01:44 PM on 5/12/2010

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Sorry for the typo: Earl Flynn.

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**keene** 01:21 PM on 5/12/2010

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I have heard good things about Blue Valentine with Ryan Gosling & Michelle Williams, directed by Derek Cianfrance.

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**Michael Giltz** 07:57 PM on 5/12/2010

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It got great reviews at Sundance where it premiered. I'm sure at the very least it will be good and certainly worth seeing. I'm a big fan of Ryan Gosling.

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**keene** 12:14 AM on 5/14/2010

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I had a call back for a small role. Derek and company were the sweetest people I ever auditioned for.

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**Lamirabelle** 01:15 AM on 5/12/2010

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What I remember from Cannes is :  
More glitz than film, most people go to parties and don't watch the films. They spend a lot of time choosing their dress and not much discussing films.

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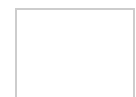
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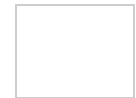
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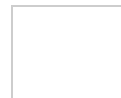
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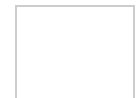
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The selection is usually pretty awful (3 hour long films about a guy talking to a cleaning lady about this and that) and I heard that some years professionals are turned down at the accreditation bureau while starlets can hop on the red carpet. Film lovers go to Venice, Deauville, Sundance...

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**Michael Giltz** 09:32 AM on 5/12/2010  
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Hi Lamirabelle. There are a number of very good film festivals around the world, like Venice. Any film lover who can go to any of them is lucky. As with any film festival, you can go and spend all your time attending parties, all your time cramming in tiresome and unrevealing roundtable interviews with the stars, all your time following business deals OR if you're like me you can spend all your time from 8:30 in the morning till 2 in the morning going to movies. It's up to you. Me, I usually see at least 30 films at Cannes. People always bemoan the selections in advance but when all is said and done at least three films on my best of the year list come from Cannes. If you can see three great movies in ten days, that's time well spent in my book. Unquestionably, some of the best movies of the decade debuted here during the 11 years I've been coming: In The Mood For Love, The Best Of Youth, Crouching Tiger/Hidden Dragon, The Piano Teacher, Politist Adjectiv, The Diving Bell and the Butterfly, A Prophet, Up (the Pixar film), The Class, Il Divo, Hunger, The Host and many many others.

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**Michael Giltz** 09:50 AM on 5/12/2010  
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Oh and starlets are always welcome on the red carpet of course, but if you don't have your ticket you won't get in no matter how famous you are. And the screenings starlets go to are not the same as the screenings the press goes to so there is never a choice between press and starlets. (The accreditation office is very fair; I say that even though they have been cruelly blunt with me -- if you are representing a serious outlet doing serious coverage, you will always get accreditation when you apply in time.) I'm sorry but Cannes is the Wimbledon of film festivals. If you're a film lover, how could you not want to be here and see new films by Mike Leigh, ken Loach, Godard, Cristi Puiu, Oliver Stone, Gregg Araki, Jia Zhangke, Stephen Frears and many more.

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