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presenteren / présentent:



Grand Jury Award - Outstanding Actress in a Feature Film: **Olympia Dukakis** (L.A. Outfest 2003)
Reader Jury Siegessäule - **Thom Fitzgerald** (Berlinale 2003)

Best Director - **Thom Fitzgerald**, Outstanding Writer's Award **Thom Fitzgerald, Tim Marback & Steve Hillyer** Best Art Direction - **D'Arcy Poultney**, Best Editing - **Christopher Cooper**, Best Acting Performance - **Joan Orenstein** (The Atlantic Film Festival)

THE EVENT – over de film (NL)

De vrouwelijke officier van justitie Nick Di Vivo (Parker Posey) gaat op zoek naar de achtergrond van de vele zelfmoorden die de laatste tijd in New York plaatsvinden. Een daarvan betreft de HIV geïnfekteerde Matt Shapiro (Don McKellar). Zijn achtergebleven moeder (Olympia Dukakis) en vrienden willen weinig of niets kwijt aan officier Di Vivo, die er wel achterkomt dat de cocktail van medicijnen die Matt slikte om het aids virus te bedwingen langzaam zijn effect begon te verliezen. Geheel volgens de Amerikaanse wet staat Di Vivo op het standpunt dat zelfmoord geen oplossing biedt en dat euthanasie een misdaad is. Uiteindelijk weet Di Vivo een tape in handen te krijgen waarop Matts afscheidsfeestje ('the event') is vastgelegd. Maar meer nog dan dat videomateriaal is het de grenzeloze liefde van Matts moeder waarmee de strenge officier van justitie een spiegel wordt voorgehouden en die haar confronteert met de eenzame dood van haar eigen vader en met de keuze tussen goed en kwaad.

The Event beleefde z'n wereldpremière op het Sundance Filmfestival 2003. Regisseur Thom Fitzgerald regisseerde eerder The Hanging Garden en Beefcake. Het zeer intense en intieme verhaal van The Event dankt zijn kracht niet in de laatste plaats aan het voortreffelijke acteerwerk van de ensemble cast, en specifiek aan Olympia Dukakis, die schittert als de moeder die met verbazingwekkende sterkte het lot van haar zoon aanvaardt.



THE EVENT / 114 min. / 35 mm / Canada-Verenigde Staten 2003

Nederlandse filmdistributie: Cinemien
Belgische filmdistributie: ABC Distribution
Kijkwijzer **12**      Filmnummer: 670

www.cinemien.nl
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THE EVENT – synopsis (FR)

Une série de suicides et la rapide cérémonie d'incinération des morts éveillent des soupçons chez la jeune procureur Nick Di Vivo. Après la mort de Matt Shapiro, qui vient de succomber à un prétendu suicide, Nick prend en main l'enquête qui la conduit au cœur du quartier chic de Chelsea, dans Manhattan. Le cercle des amis de Matt se montre très réservé envers la jeune juriste. A partir des conversations qu'elle mène avec les uns et les autres, elle parvient à rassembler les éléments dispersés d'une mosaïque de vie.

Matt était séropositif et le cocktail de médicaments qu'il ingurgitait depuis longtemps ne faisait plus aucun effet. Raison valable pour un suicide, donc, mais pour Nick, dont le père est mort récemment à la suite d'une longue maladie, cela n'exclut pas une enquête plus approfondie. Pour elle, le suicide n'est pas une résolution et l'euthanasie constitue tout simplement un crime. Avec l'aide de Brian, qui dirige un centre de soins palliatifs pour les malades du sida et qui était le dernier ami de Matt, Nick en apprend plus sur les rapports familiaux et sur le cercle d'amis défunt. Sa mère Lila n'avait pas été plus surprise de son coming out que sa sœur Dana. C'est seulement lorsque Matt leur parla de son infection que les deux femmes s'effondrèrent. Mais cela ne changera rien à leur soutien inconditionnel au malade. Même maintenant, elles ne parlent pas davantage des circonstances de son décès et de la party suspecte à l'issue de laquelle Matt mourut. Seule sa sœur aînée, Gaby, collabore à l'enquête qui finit par conduire Nick sur les traces d'une bande vidéo enregistrée lors de la fête. Mais cet enregistrement n'est pas la seule chose qui confronte Nick à la mort solitaire de son père et à la question du droit et de la loi.

La première mondiale du film The Event était au Sundance Festival du Film en 2003. Réalisateur Thom Fitzgerald a aussi réalisé The Hanging Garden et Beefcake. L'histoire intense et intime de The Event a sa force grâce au jeu superbe du cast et surtout d'Olympia Dukakis, qui est magnifique comme la mère qui accepte le destin de son fils avec un courage étonnant.



THE EVENT / 114 min. / 35 mm / Canada - Etats-Unis 2003

La sortie théâtrale aux Pays-Bas: Cinemien
La sortie théâtrale en Belgique: ABC Distribution
La sortie sur DVD : Homescreen

www.abc-distribution.be

THE EVENT – Cast

Nick	: Parker Posey
Lila	: Olympia Dukakis
Matt	: Don McKellar
Dana	: Sarah Polley
Brian	: Brent Carver
Mona	: Jane Leeves
Amy	: Cynthia Preston
Gaby	: Joanna P. Adler
Rory	: Rejean Joseph Cournoyer
Andy	: Glen Michael Grant
Lilian	: Gianna Marciante
Amelia	: Jaclyn Markowitz
Judy	: Christina Zorich



THE EVENT – Crew

Regie / réalisation	: Thom Fitzgerald (The Hanging Garden, Beefcake)
Scenario / scénario	: Thom Fitzgerald, Steven Hillyer, Tim Marback
Productie / production	: Thom Fitzgerald & Bryan Hofbauer
Camera / caméra	: Thomas M. Harting
Montage	: Christopher Cooper
Muziek / musique	: Christophe Beck

THE EVENT – over regisseur Thom Fitzgerald

Thom Fitzgerald werd geboren in New York (Verenigde Staten) en groeide op in New Jersey. Tijdens zijn studie aan Cooper Union (NYC) kwam hij middels een uitwisselingsprogramma bij het Nova Scotia College of Art and Design terecht waar Fitzgerald besloot te blijven. Sindsdien woont hij in Canada. Zijn studentenfilm THE MOVIE OF THE WEEK (1990) won een prijs op het Atlantic Film Festival na zijn afstuderen verdeelde Fitzgerald zijn tijd met het maken van korte films en het acteren bij het Charlatan Theatre Collective.

Thom Fitzgeralds eerste lange speelfilm THE HANGING GARDEN (1997) won meer dan 20 internationale en Canadese prijzen, waaronder 4 Genie Awards, o.a. Best Screenplay, Supporting Actor (Peter MacNeill) en Supporting Actress (Seana McKenna). De film won ook de FIPRESCI European International Critics Prize en de People's Choice Award for Best Film op het IFF Toronto. Zijn docu-comedy BEEFCAKE, een homage aan de vijftigerjaren Physique magazines, ging in première op het Sundance Film Festival.

Hij regisseerde de TV freak show WOLFGIRL, met daarin Tim Curry, Grace Jones en Lesley Ann Warren (USA network, 2001). In 2002 filmde hij het DV drama THE WILD DOGS dat zich afspeelt tussen de 200.000 straathonden van Boekarest.

Thom Fitzgerald est né à New Rochelle, New York et élevé à New Jersey. Pendant ses études à l'université Cooper-Union (NYC), il faisait connaissance avec le Nova Scotia College of Art and Design et il décidait d'y rester. Alors depuis 1988 il vit en Nouvelle-Écosse, au Canada.

Son film THE MOVIE OF THE WEEK (1990), tourné pendant ses études, gagnait un prix sur Le Festival du Film Atlantique. Après ses études il passait ses temps avec le tournage des courts métrages et avec jouer au Charlatan Theatre Collective.

Son premier long métrage est THE HANGING GARDEN (1997) qui lui vaut de nombreuses récompenses internationaux et Canadiens, aussi 4 Genie Awards pour e.a. Meilleur Scénario, Supporting Actor (Peter MacNeill) et Supporting Actress (Seana McKenna). Le film a aussi gagné le FIPRESCI European International Critics Prize et le People's Choice Award for Best Film au Festival International du Film de Toronto.

Son docu-comédie BEEFCAKE, sur la photographie de scènes de culture physique dans les années 50, fut présenté au Sundance Film festival.

Il réalisait aussi le TV freak show WOLFGIRL, avec Tim Curry, Grace Jones et Lesley Ann Warren (USA network, 2001). En 2002 il a fait le drame THE WILD DOGS sur les chiens errants de Bucharest.



2003	The Event
2002	The Wild Dogs
2001	Wolfgirl (TV)
1999	Beefcake
1997	The Hanging Garden
1990	The Movie of the Week (Korte film / court métrage)

THE EVENT – over de cast

PARKER POSEY (Nick)

One of the leading lights of independent film, Parker has made a name for herself as a dedicated actress with a broad range. Beautiful, yet not afraid to get ugly, she has created some of the more memorable film roles of the last decade. Standout performances in PARTY GIRL, FLIRT, DAZED AND CONFUSED, BASQUIAT, WAITING FOR GUFFMAN, CLOCKWATCHERS, THE HOUSE OF YES (for which she won a Special Recognition Award at the Sundance Film Festival), BEST IN SHOW, THE ANNIVERSARY PARTY and PERSONAL VELOCITY have demonstrated her comedic, dramatic, and even singing abilities. She has also been seen in studio films such as SCREAM 3, THE SWEETEST THING, JOSIE AND THE PUSSYCATS, YOU'VE GOT MAIL and SLEEPLESS IN SEATTLE.

DON MCKELLAR (Matt)

Actor, Writer, and Director Don McKellar has appeared in numerous films including 32 SHORT FILMS ABOUT GLENN GOULD, the cult classic HIGHWAY 61, Atom Egoyan's EXOTICA, THE RED VIOLIN (which he also co-wrote), and David Cronenberg's eXistenZ. He created and starred in his own TV series, TWITCH CITY, in his native Canada, which aired on the CBC Network. The film LAST NIGHT, which he wrote and directed (as well as starred in), won numerous awards, including Best Canadian First Feature Film at the 1998 Toronto International Film Festival.

SARAH POLLEY (Dana)

The most artistically minded member of today's young Hollywood, actress Sarah Polley has shown tremendous depth and maturity in all her roles. As the lead in GO, she proved she could carry a studio film. Some of her most critically acclaimed work includes powerful roles in THE CLAIM, GUINEVERE, Thom Fitzgerald's debut film THE HANGING GARDEN, Atom Egoyan's THE SWEET HEREFTER, and EXOTICA. Her pursuit of her art has led her to write and direct her own short films.

JANE LEEVES (Mona)

Best known as the sassy and smart British caregiver Daphne on TV's "Frasier," Jane has also enjoyed success on the big screen in films such as MIRACLE ON 34TH STREET, TO LIVE AND DIE IN LA and MUSIC OF THE HEART. She also lent her voice to "Ladybug" in JAMES AND THE GIANT PEACH.

BRENT CARVER (Brian)

A shining star in his native Canada, Brent Carver has shown tremendous range in a variety of roles, including the films LILIES and THE LEGEND OF SLEEPY HOLLOW. He can be seen in the Atom Egoyan film ARARAT, which focuses on a filmmaker dealing with Armenian genocide. Carver won a Tony as Best Actor in a Musical for his role in the original Broadway production of "Kiss of the Spider Woman."

OLYMPIA DUKAKIS (Lila)

Oscar-winner Olympia Dukakis has enjoyed a long and distinguished career. Some of her most noteworthy film roles have been in MOONSTRUCK (for which she won the Best Supporting Actress Academy Award), WORKING GIRL, LOOK WHO'S TALKING, STEEL MAGNOLIAS, JEFFREY, MIGHTY APHRODITE, JERUSALEM, PICTURE PERFECT, and THE INTENDED.

bron: filmthreat.com

THOM FITZGERALD & SARAH POLLEY: "SPECIAL EVENT"

by Chris Gore (2003-03-03)

What makes a Sundance audience cry? Try Thom Fitzgerald's AIDS drama *The Event*. Not a dry eye in the house. We caught up with writer/director Thom Fitzgerald and *The Event* star Sarah Polley to talk to them a bit about this film that questions whether the terminally ill should be allowed to take their own lives or not.

What inspired the story for the film?

Thom: *The Event* is about a man named Matt and his family and his circle of friends. Matt has AIDS. He's had AIDS for a very long time and he's gone back and forth from being sick to the point where he just doesn't want to continue anymore. I think it's safe to say that the film is inspired by many people like Matt who most everyone involved with film are familiar with. Our society is so focused on keeping people alive no matter what that I think almost everybody is facing this difficult situation now.

The film just spans the gamut of emotions. How do you get actors to those places?

Thom: I think that this was a fiercely independent film and our resources were so small that I genuinely feel like, especially in the New York portion of the shoot which involved Sarah and Olympia Dukakis, they didn't necessarily feel safe, these actors. I think that they felt no one had a private place to go to. No one had a trailer to go to in order to collect his or her thoughts. They were just constantly surrounded by the chaos of making the film.

Sarah: It's kind of great in a way.

Thom: Their desperation really comes across.

So do you think that being away from all those Hollywood trappings actually added to the film?

Thom: Well, I think in terms of me trying to build a family of characters, and that's what they are in this film, that being put into this situation for several weeks, they really had no way to get away from each other. The entire support system consisted of a tiny bedroom with a twin bed, so that if they didn't feel like a family when they started making the film, well, a few days into it, all those relationships were emerging in real life and I think that comes across.

What is your hope for the movie now?

Thom: We actually came to Sundance with a distributor. We were a very precarious independent film but, rather amazingly, Think Film Company, which is based in Toronto and New York, bought our film based on the first three days of dailies and really helped us to be able to finish the film in a more comfortable way.

HOLLYWOOD REPORTER

By Duane Byrge

Feb. 05, 2003

"To go out with a bang and not a whimper is the life-affirming decision of a young AIDS victim in this bittersweet saga. The title refers to a going-away party, namely the young man's suicide party, where, with his friends and family assembled, he calmly sips wine and takes some pills. Spun around a detective-style story line where an assistant district attorney (Parker Posey) grimly investigates a series of deaths that have the earmarks of suicide, "The Event" is well-conceived dramatic entertainment.

Consistently touching, "The Event" brims with compassionate insight. In particular, we see the various cruelties that Matt endures when breaking the news to his family and friends. Indeed, anyone who has had to deliver personal news of illness or a death in the family may readily identify with one of the awful side effects of Matt's plight -- having to face the insensitivity and selfishness of those who receive the news. Not surprisingly, Matt ends up being the caregiver in many instances.

Under Fitzgerald's intelligent directorial hand, the performances from the talented cast invigorate the production. As the stricken Matt, McKellar radiates resilience, courage and good humor. He captures the brave spirit of his character, refusing to play the victim role. As Matt's family members, Olympia Dukakis and Sarah Polley are empathetic as his mother and younger sister. However, Posey is victimized by the one-dimensional aspect of her tenacious villainlike character."

