

Two "My So-Called Enemy" film festival wins, "The Nation" review and more...



Director Lisa Gossels

Dear Friends,

I hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday.

After the joy of receiving a Jury Prize for Best Conflict & Resolution Film at the Hamptons International Film Festival in October, we are excited that November was also a very special month for "My So-Called Enemy."

Awards at the Starz Denver Film Festival and The Boston Jewish Film Festival

Melodye Feldman and Erin Breeze of Seeking Common Ground/Building Bridges for Peace joined me at our two Starz Denver Film Festival screenings. The response to "My So-Called Enemy" was overwhelmingly positive. And, the icing on the cake was that our movie won a Special Jury Prize in Filmmaking at the festival.

http://www.indiewire.com/article/happythankyoumoreplease_and_grace_paley/

Our Boston Jewish Film Festival screening at the Museum of Fine Arts was packed, despite the wind and the rain. Erin Breeze joined me for that Q&A. We were thrilled that "My So-Called Enemy" won the Audience Award for Best Documentary Film at the festival.

http://www.indiewire.com/article/savior_in_the_night_and_my_so-called_enemy_winners_at_2010_boston_jewish_fi/

Review in "The Nation"

I am excerpting part of a very intelligent and insightful review of "My So-Called Enemy" from *The Nation*. Eric Alterman wrote the lead to this article on his blog:

The documentary, "My So-Called Enemy," directed by Lisa Gossels, got terrific word of mouth at the Hamptons International Film Festival last month, and so I asked my young friend, seminary student (and daughter's Bat-Mitzvah tutor), Rachel Druck, to watch it with us and write up her thoughts. They appear below:

Rachel Druck on "My So-Called Enemy"

In the summer of 2002, at the height of the Second Intifada, I was staying with relatives in a suburb of Jerusalem... That same summer a group of twenty-two Israeli and Palestinian girls were heading for New Jersey to participate in a leadership program for women, "Building Bridges for Peace..."

Watching this evocative documentary was both a deeply moving, and deeply uncomfortable, experience. I am the same age as the women portrayed in the film, and relatively frequent trips to Israel meant that I was often in the country when many of the events that took place over the course of filming occurred... Being forced to listen to a wide range of opinions, and "My So-Called Enemy" forced me, along with these young women, to understand the limits of the narrative I have come of age with, and to honestly confront the face of the other.

One of the most admirable features of the film is that no side is allowed to "win," and the stories that are told are not neatly resolved. The Israelis are still drafted into the IDF, the wall between the West Bank and Gaza rises, and the lines of communication between the program participants become increasingly tenuous... In a world in which women are urged, above all, to "Be Nice," and avoid conflict, these women learn to express themselves powerfully and confront each other and their own contradictory, wide-ranging set of feelings. "My So-Called Enemy" ends ultimately with the hope that one day we will live in a world where my cousin can call his friend in the next village, and they can share their fears with each other.

www.thenation.com/blog/156545/it-was-32-years-ago-today

Frequent Flier Miles

We have a special request for you. Because "My So-Called Enemy" is still in the red, and some film festivals can't afford to provide airfare, we are seeking donations of frequent flyer miles so that we, and most important, some of the remarkable young women in "My So-Called Enemy," can join us for festival screenings.

Upcoming Film Festivals

"Mums the word" for now because most festivals don't announce their line-ups till one month before opening night. We'll have film festival announcements in our next edition.

A special "thank you" to Lance Warren

I met Lance Warren thanks to a wonderful website called idealist.org. For the past few months, Lance has been donating his time, creating and updating our "My So-Called Enemy" website and designing and maintaining the database for our newsletters. Since so many of you have complimented me on the newsletters, I wanted to publically thank Lance for his generosity of spirit, creativity and time on this project.

For the latest news on the movie:

You can "like" our film on Facebook: www.facebook.com/mysocalledenemy

Or consult our website: www.mysocalledenemy.com

If you are finding our newsletters in your spam/junk folder, please add lisa@mysocalledenemy.com to your address books.

Wishing you a beautiful holiday season and a 2012 full of love, happiness, health, safety, prosperity and peace.

With gratitude and warmest regards,

Lisa

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