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## ENTERTAINMENT

New website delves into more than thumbs up or down

# Local filmmaker digs deeper



By John Law , Niagara Falls Review  
Friday, January 25, 2008 6:36:21 EST AM

Film buff Anthony Perrotta has been discussing movies for years, and it usually comes down to two things - thumbs up or thumbs down.

Thumbs won't be necessary for a new website he starts next month. He wants to dig deeper.

"I don't really want to have that dialogue any more about whether (a movie) is good," says the former Niagara Falls filmmaker and Saint Paul high school teacher. "I want to have a dialogue about 'What does it say?'"

Over the holidays, Perrotta started kicking around the idea of a new website offering serious discourse on everything from art films to popcorn flicks, along with a section for submitted Canadian short films.

By his reasoning, Canadian cinema has never been bigger or better, thanks to highly-regarded hits like "Juno" and "Away From Her" (both strong Oscar contenders).

Why not a website to seriously discuss it?

"This is the time. Funny enough, I've been working with Foundry Films trying to get ahold of the producer of 'Away From Her,' and you can't get ahold of him. He's just so busy because of the film's success."

Launching Feb. 1, Real Cinema will also offer video interviews Perrotta does with Canadian talent, to go with critical analysis about why we see what we see.

Perrotta doesn't care whether the upcoming new "Rambo" movie is good. He's more interested in why it was made at all.

"I love 'popcorn cinema,'" he says. "They're probably the most important cinema because they showcase the spectacle with such artistry, it can actually hide what some of the messages are.

"Even this new 'Rambo' ... they're acknowledging this is a cultural need. We're in need of this old school hero. "

Perrotta taught film studies at Saint Paul, and started the Focus Niagara Film Festival (which he has renamed and brought to Oakville). He's now developing a film program at Toronto's Saint Basil The Great College.

He hopes to open a Canada-wide dialogue with the new website and hopefully bring some prestige back to the idea of independent filmmaking.

In the YouTube era, anyone can aim a camera and call themselves a filmmaker.

"It's a place to really explore and study film as a cultural property," he says. "It's more a reaction to YouTube ... talking to filmmakers, this is a real problem. It's kind of marginalizing the artform. If there's so many of us, then what gives it integrity?"

"What YouTube fails to illustrate is that film is very much a cultural and social experience. So what Real Cinema is, is a celebration of film as a cultural artform."

The site can be found at [www.realcinema.org](http://www.realcinema.org).

[jlaw@nfreview.com](mailto:jlaw@nfreview.com)