

PRETTY CLEVER FILMS



- FEATURE SECTIONS ▾
- COLUMNS ▾
- MOVIE LISTS
- MOVIE REVIEWS ▾
- MOVIE SITES
- FESTIVALS ▾
- DIRECTORS ▾

Home » Movie Reviews » Modern Times » TIFF13 Review: Bad Hair (2013)

MODERN TIMES



TIFF13 Review: Bad Hair (2013)

Posted by Brandy Dean September 13, 2013 0 Comment 1663 views






Spoiler: Mariana Rondon's gripping film *Bad Hair* isn't actually about hair. Rather it's about Junior (Samuel Lange), a young boy who doesn't quite fit. Junior doesn't fit into society's conventional definition of a boy and, most importantly, he doesn't fit in the world of his weary mother Marta who is growing suspicious that he might be a homosexual. Junior doesn't even fit with his more accepting but still demanding grandmother, who's willing to go along with his dream of being a straight haired singer as long as she likes the song.

Bad Hair is a riveting and gripping domestic drama that simmers to a boil and it is heartbreaking in many ways. Rondon manages to capture both the wide-eyed innocence of childhood and the grating sound of that innocence scraping against the harsh realities of economically oppressive urban life. The filmmaker manages, remarkably, to generate empathy for each character in turn. As much as you want to hate Marta for grinding her child's spirit, her concerns are real and practical.

However, as much as I enjoyed *Bad Hair* it felt incomplete in the end. Both Marta and grandma conclude that Junior is probably gay, which feels like an easy solution for the characters and filmmakers alike. Too many stones are left unturned here. Junior's father, a black man and presumably the source of his curly "bad" hair, seemed like a potential well of meaning that no bothers to explore. I found myself reading Junior's obsession with straightening his hair more as a desire to look more like his mother and less like his father; more a bid to win his mom's withheld affection than an indicator of his sexuality. While the film makes feints in this direction early on, it abandons that train of thought by the end.

Still, *Bad Hair* is moving and affecting and you'll feel the sharp sting of tears at the final, heartbreaking shot. This is definitely worth a festival pass.

Screening Times for Bad Hair

LOGIN

Username

Password

Remember Me

Login →

Register

Lost Password

VISIT THE PRETTY CLEVER T-SHIRTS SHOP

BUY A ROCKIN' T-SHIRT
SUPPORT PRETTY CLEVER FILMS



 BUY NOW

 SEE ALL TEES



STREAM 

PLAY NOW

Saturday September 7 Isabel Bader Theatre 6:30 PM

Monday September 9 Scotiabank 13 11:00 AM

Friday September 13 Scotiabank 10 12:45 PM

A Gallery of Images from Bad Hair



Watch the Bad Hair Trailer



The Pretty Clever Films TIFF13 Coverage is brought to you in part by MUBI, your online cinemetheque.



FESTIVAL COVERAGE [MARIANA RONDÓN](#) [TIFF13](#)

1 [Tweet](#) 4 [Digg](#) ↑

About Brandy Dean

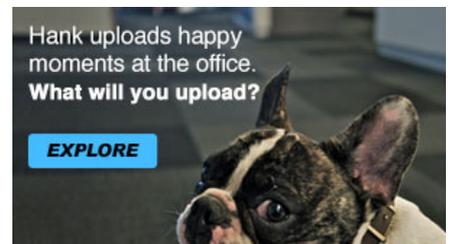


Social media consultant, blogger for hire, and lover of classic movies and silent films.

[View all post by Brandy Dean](#)



HELP SUPPORT PCF BY SHOPPING AT AMAZON!



Related Posts



Big Sur (2013)

December 31, 2013 - 0 Comment



The Wolf of Wall Street (2013)

December 30, 2013 - 1 Comment



Control (2007)

December 20, 2013 - 0 Comment



Saving Mr. Banks

December 17, 2013 - 0 Comment



TRY MUBI FREE FOR A MONTH!

MUBI

Write Your Comment

Name

Email

Website

Comment



CAPTCHA Code*

Submit

Notify me of followup comments via e-mail

The Perfect Gift this Holiday Season.

FREE GIFT

with your order at MyChicagoSteak.com

Nexus 7 from \$229

www.google.com/nexus

The 7" tablet from Google.
Free shipping for limited time.
Buy now.



WARNER ARCHIVE INSTANT

Watch rare and hard-to-find movies and tv shows!

View on your PC or Mac. Easily stream to your TV with Roku*

14 DAY FREE TRIAL* >

*new subscribers only