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MODERN TIMES



TIFF13 Review: Kill Your Darlings (2013)

Posted by Brandy Dean September 9, 2013 1 Comment 1659 views

Kill Your Darlings, the debut feature from filmmaker John Krokidas, is a love poem to the Beats before they were the Beats. Set in and around the Columbia University campus in the mid-1940's, the film details both the curious intersection that brought Jack Kerouac, Allen Ginsberg, and William Burroughs together and the pivotal character and incident that cemented the bonds of what would come to be known as "The Beat Generation." Full disclosure: I have a very special spot in my heart for all things Beat, which makes me simultaneously susceptible to the romanticism of the era and unduly harsh when I feel that it's misrepresented (I'm looking at you, Kristen Stewart). **Kill Your Darlings** passes the test though.

Kill Your Darlings centers on the tortured relationship between the young and beautiful Lucien Carr (Dane DeHaan) and the older David Kammerer (Michael C. Hall) and the ultimate bloody conclusion to that five year saga. It was Carr who introduced the three principles who comprise "the Beats," and each one played a role in Carr's eventual murder of his would-be stalker/lover, with varying degrees of impact on each of their lives. Though that murder has been examined ad nauseam for almost 70 years, the true facts remain pretty opaque. But Krokidas uses the event to springboard **Kill Your Darlings** into a meditation on desire, art, and personal responsibility.

With an all-star cast, **Kill Your Darlings** is an atmospheric charmer. Hats should be tipped to Daniel Radcliffe as young Allen Ginsberg – proving for good that his skills stretch way beyond Boy Wizard – and the chemistry between DeHaan's Carr and Ginsberg is palpable. There are a couple of missteps – some very odd music choices plague the second half of the film and post-murder Ginsberg goes on a strong sort of boy-detective tangent – but those flaws can be forgiven in light of the sheer pleasure of watching dramatic representations of the full blossoming of these literary heroes.

While **Kill Your Darlings** has a North American release date set for October 18, 2013, it's classified as "limited." Without any clarification on which select cities it will be opening in, it's worth a festival pass.

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Screening Times for Kill Your Darlings

Tuesday September 10 Roy Thomson Hall 6:30 PM

Wednesday September 11 Visa Screening Room (Elgin) 2:30 PM

A Gallery of Images for Kill Your Darlings



Watch the Kill Your Darlings Trailer



FESTIVAL COVERAGE JOHN KROKIDAS TIFF13



About Brandy Dean



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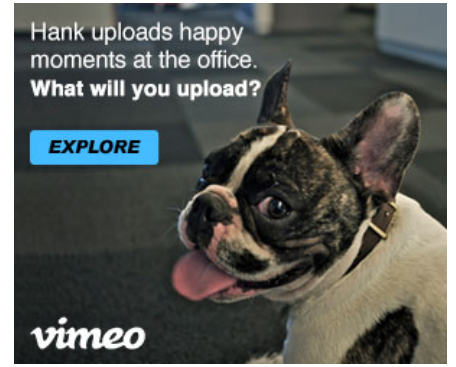
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