

Omaha Film Festival Review: Coming Through The Rye

OFF to the FILMS

Delightful and Inspiring, Coming Through The Rye takes us on a journey, one we will never forget.

We've all gone through that stage in life, some of us multiple times; That part of life in which you are finding yourself, or discovering new passions, or simply lost. What we do with those times stick with us for the rest of our life. For instance, when I was 12 I lived in an overwhelmingly hispanic town, and I was one of only a handful of white kids I knew. I had friends, but I wouldn't say I ever felt completely comfortable with my own skin. Within time, I found film, and I was able to relate to certain characters, envy others, but more importantly escape reality for an hour or two at a time. In Coming Through The Rye, we travel that coming of age journey with Jamie Schwartz, a young kid who, after reading JD Salinger's The Catcher In The Rye, found who he could relate to in one of the novel's characters, Holden Caulfield.

Jamie understands Holden, and feels like Caulfield is the type of person that understand him, so he becomes immersed in adapting a play out of this story, as his senior project. To do that, however, he needs the permission of Salinger himself. They say finding Salinger can't be done, but accompanied by Deedee, his friend, love interest, and overall amazing person, they make for an incredible team, and their dedication matches no others. Whether or not they find Salinger, I'll leave up to the film to tell, but I'll say overwhelmingly Jamie is looking for himself in this journey, whether he knows it or not.

Coming Through The Rye is written and directed by James Steven Sadwith, and who better to do so than the man the film is based on. Sadwith was Jamie, not in the film, but the real, live Jamie. He knows the characters and the story better than anyone, and the film oozes authenticity because of it. His charming development of the characters, combined with impeccable performance by young and promising actors Alex Wolff as Jamie and Stefania LaVie Owen as Deedee, combust for a captivating watch. We're even granted a stunning performance of JD Salinger, crafted by Chris Cooper. Calling Coming Through The Rye a "feel-good" film undermines it's integrity, and doesn't do it justice. This narrative is far better than just a feel-good, it's a do-good, as it inspires the viewer to find their true self and follow their dreams.

The value of this feature is immeasurable, and this is a rare opportunity for me to say I'm grateful I've had the chance to watch this film. *Coming Through The Rye* is a narrative that will stick in my mind as quality filmmaking with an important and uplifting storyline. I hope each and every one of you gets an opportunity to see this film, and I'm rooting for a theatrical release as well.

Coming Through The Rye will screen at Omaha Film Festival on March 12th, 2016 at 5:45 pm.

Official Trailer:

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