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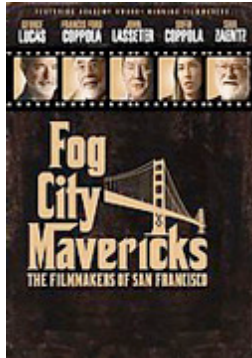
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Fog City Mavericks: The Filmmakers of San Francisco

2007

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Filmmaking conjures up images of Los Angeles and Hollywood, something that is most often associated with the industry, but there are other places where movie magic still happens. Outside of the United States Korean, Japanese, and even Russian filmmakers and giving us movies that look like they have a big Hollywood budget behind them, but they don't. Here in the United States however, if you travel north from Hollywood, you will find another community of filmmakers, still in California, but in none other than San Francisco.

Fog City Mavericks looks at the lives and careers of these filmmakers, many of who any film buff should be familiar with, and they were willing to step beyond the limelight and the glitz and glamour of Hollywood and make movies their own way. Originally a presentation of Starz, the documentary is now available for those who may not subscribe to the channel or may have seen it already and enjoy the invaluable information and history that is showcased here.

Featured and interview are the likes of George Lucas, Francis Ford Coppola as well as his daughter Sofia Coppola, Chris Columbus, Clint Eastwood and even Pixar legend John Lasseter. Both Lucas and Coppola began in the industry early on, fresh out of film school, and after Coppola made his first Hollywood picture, he decided that it was best that he did movies his own way, and the same is true of Lucas who had Warner Brothers re-cutting *THX 1138* and balking at the idea of releasing *American Graffiti*. These two however would be the ones who would be something of the leaders of the modern generation of filmmakers, those who would stand their ground and oppose the often heartless and unknowing world of Hollywood to make the films that they wanted, and often these were movies that the studios believed to be an impossible sale to the general public. I'm sure they were pleased however when the films became nominated for Academy Awards and gained international success.

What's interesting about the documentary itself is the format that it follows. It will follow the career path of one director for a time and this is filled with interviews from them as well as those who have worked with them and also includes a variety of clips from the movie. But, instead of only follow the director from the start of his career up to his present work, it often will move to another name in the industry and follow what they were working on at the same time. This keeps the flow rather unique and will certainly keep someone from wanting to watch *Fog City Mavericks* just to see the segment about George Lucas or Philip Kaufman and instead will introduce you

director's that in some cases, you may not have known otherwise.

But *Fog City Mavericks* also gives a great deal of background regarding the early lives of many of these influential directors and in most cases, you'll see a love of filmmaking even before they released their first box office hit, or miss in some cases. This really seems to be true of most of the greats, and that is seen here as well. These directors however should serve as an inspiration to some, not because of their body of work, but rather their commitment to the craft, their willingness to take risks and chances, and their ability to not give in to Hollywood's demands but instead thumb their nose at them and do things their own way.

The only extra features on the DVD are the promos that ran on Starz for the documentary, but there is more than enough information found here that I don't feel that additional material was necessary. For anyone who has a passion for filmmaking and have an interest in getting into the industry but want to avoid the trapping of Hollywood this is essential viewing especially if you are in film school and have stars in your eyes. Even for someone with a love of movies or simply enjoy the works of these directors, *Fog City Mavericks* is an eye opening film that showcases the talents to living legends in the industry and how they did things their own way and succeeded.

-mike-

Directed by:
Gary Leva

Written by:
Gary Leva

Cast:
Carroll Ballard
Brad Bird
Chris Columbus
Bruce Conner
Francis Ford Coppola
Sofia Coppola
Clint Eastwood
Philip Kaufman
John Kory
John Lasseter
George Lucas
Walter Murch
Saul Zaentz

DVD Features:
Audio: English Stereo Surround 2.0
Original On-Air Promos

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