

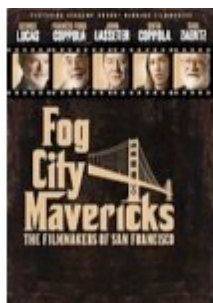


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## Fog City Mavericks

**Overall Rating:** ★★★★★  
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## Solid Cinema Documentary

Written: Jun 26 '09

**Product Rating:** ★★★★★

Action Factor:

Special Effects:

Suspense:

**Pros:** Good profiles, well constructed, good narration by Coyote

**Cons:** DVD lacks any real special feature

**The Bottom Line:** A well-produced documentary about the San Francisco film scene and the Hollywood luminaries that have remained there as home.

### About the Author

**Epinions.com ID:** [videodude](#)

**Location:** South Shore Massachusetts

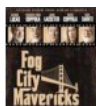
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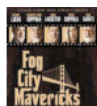
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## videodude's Full Review: Fog City Mavericks

Plot Details: This opinion reveals minor details about the movie's plot.

Fog City Mavericks could've been produced any other way. It could've been a virtual puff piece cooked up by a major motion picture studio in release of a film or a special edition DVD. It could've been produced in the wake of one's passing. It could've been a simple 10 minute featurette on a DVD. There's nothing grandiose about the concept of producing a documentary on the filmmakers who live and work in the Bay area that any major DVD producer could've made with ease to make some money by churning out an insignificant piece of work no one bother to see.

Fortunately, that doesn't happen. What does happen is the Starz Channel produces a documentary so surprisingly rich in information that it carefully examines and even dissects the appeal of the city of San Francisco and the artistic haven it's provided for the directors who affectionately call it home. It's where Oscar winning Godfather director Francis Ford Coppola operates American Zoetrope; where Star Wars mogul George Lucas runs his newly built post-production facilities in the city's Presidio neighborhood and where Home Alone and Harry Potter director Chris Columbus shot Mrs. Doubtfire and Bicentennial Man with local resident Robin Williams. This is the San Francisco that many would probably take for granted as just a postcard snapshot of the Golden Gate Bridge or the city that gave the world The Grateful Dead. Like I said, any major studio might be inclined to produce a meaningless puff piece about these filmmakers and others, but not really getting into it. Fog City Mavericks does however, and is probably the only document that paints a portrait of a city surprisingly rich in culture and resources for those who call it home.

As narrated by character actor Peter Coyote, himself an alumni of the San Francisco political theater troupe The Diggers, Fog City Mavericks looks at a cross section of directors who have settled in the Bay Area. There's Coppola, Lucas and Columbus. But there's also Philip Kaufman, director of The Unbearable Lightness of Being and The Right Stuff (which Kaufman concentrated the bulk of the film's production resources in his adopted home city). There's Oscar-winning film producer Saul Zaentz of One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest and The English Patient, a man who started out in San Francisco's jazz music scene. There's Oscar winning movie star/director Clint Eastwood of neighboring Carmel. But it's not just about the people active in the industry today, it's also about San Francisco and some of the serious contributions it's really made to the film industry.

The film itself, starts off with an in-depth look at a man named Eadweard Muybridge, an English photographer who created the zoopraxiscope, which projected images at a moving pace to it's connection with legend Charlie Chaplin and the burgeoning film industry at the time. What Fog City Mavericks does is it gives a history of San Francisco's film scene and how it's importance is tied into the current world of cinema now. How else to explain George Lucas' company doing considerable work on several Hollywood blockbusters like the Transformers series, Evan Almighty and The Incredible Hulk to name just a few. But going beyond just that, Fog City Mavericks profiles the filmmakers who inspired this documentary from the inception of Pixar, which originally started out as part of Lucas' special effects company to Clint Eastwood's desire to stay out of Los Angeles as a filmmaker making movies on his own terms. I don't want to give away much information, given that this is a documentary.

But what I enjoyed about Fog City Mavericks is that it gives voice to a little seen film community, which gained considerable exposure from the likes of Francis Ford Coppola and George Lucas. San Francisco isn't Los Angeles and never will be, remaining as a fiercely independent atmosphere for independent filmmakers making movies their way. It just so happens to be that the city offers seriously fantastic views like the Palace of Fine Arts or Chinatown. But aside from the obvious, San Francisco's film scene is firmly rooted in being independent, celebrating film not only as an art but a technique. Fog City Mavericks only emphasizes that point more.

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As for a documentary on DVD, the film pretty much speaks for itself. That meaning that there aren't any special features to note, so there won't be a commentary track on it anytime soon. But I think this is a great documentary for those who love San Francisco, it's film scene or as fans of any of the aforementioned filmmakers before. It's a great document of a little seen world that remains as talented and as artistically-inclined as it will ever be.

**Recommended:**

Yes

**Viewing Format:** DVD

**Video Occasion:** Better than Watching TV

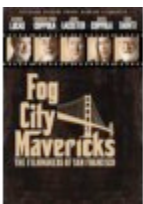


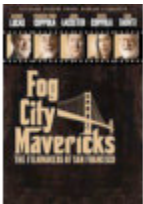


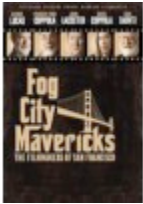


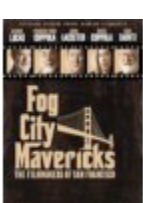



**Suitability For Children:** Suitable for Children Age 13 and Older

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