

GO Arts

What's new on the walls, stage, screen and streets of Tacoma and South Puget Sound.

Saturday, October 4th, 2008

We have a winner

Posted by **Soren Andersen** @ 06:04:22 pm

Make that a "Weiner."

The first sell-out of this year's Tacoma Film Festival was "Weiner Takes All: A Dogumentary." With a title like that, who could stay away?

Certainly not the 110 people who filled the auditorium of the Grand Cinema where the droll dogu-, ah, documentary played at 3 p.m. Saturday.

A very tongue-in-cheek look at the world of dachshund racing from director Shane MacDougall, "Weiner" featured competitors with names like Noodles, Peanut and Spike.

It's a picture with backbiting. Or rather, butt-biting, where a well-timed nip to the hindquarters can turn a leader into a loser in the time it takes for a set of long jaws to snap shut and start a dogfight right there on the track.

It's a picture that revealed that some competitors have attention spans as short as their stubby little legs, wandering sideways when the starting gate lifts, or in some cases refusing to come out of the gate at all while the rest of field dashes toward the finish line.

It's a picture where one poor pooch comes dressed in a set of hot-dog buns with a squiggle of faux mustard on its back. I swear I could see critter turn hot-dog red with embarrassment.

"The dogs were awesome and the people who brought them were a little crazed," said Sharon Anderson, a nurse from Tacoma who attended the screening with a girlfriend who owns a dachshund. Anderson was no doubt referring to a woman in the movie who put into perspective the relationship between dog and owner and the home they share when she said of her pooch, "She lets us live here."

"Hysterical," is how Annette Hockman of Gig Harbor described the movie.

The audience laughed throughout. And at the end they applauded heartily.

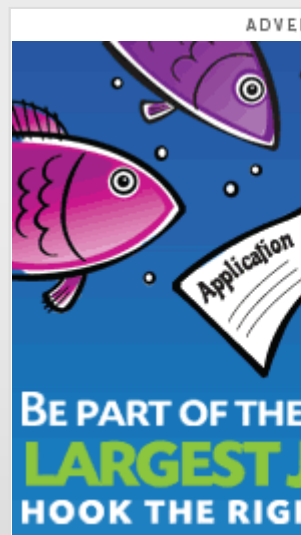
Want to know what all the guffawing was about? You're in luck. "Weiner" screens again at the Grand at 6:45 p.m. Tuesday.

Categories: Cinema

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Arts reporter and critic Rosemary Ponnekanti keeps you in the arts and culture scene with the help of other News Tribune critics and editors.

Rosemary Ponnekanti is a reporter at The News Tribune. She's a classical music nerd near and far, spending way too much time at museums and concert halls. She brings a whistle and double bass to her sessions, and insists on playing in four-part harmony.

Other contributors include:

> Movie critic **Soren Andersen**
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