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Tapping into film power; Open Cinema celebrates 75 nights of big issues on the big screen

Reid, Michael D. **Times - Colonist** [Victoria, B.C] 11 Apr 2010: C.1.

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Abstract (summary)

The feature presentation at Victoria Event Centre was Tapped, Stephanie Soechtig's eye-opening documentary about the impact -- environmental and otherwise -- of the unregulated bottled water industry.

Full Text

There were plenty of beverages available at Open Cinema's 75th screening night, but no bottled water.

No wonder. The feature presentation at Victoria Event Centre was Tapped, Stephanie Soechtig's eye-opening documentary about the impact -- environmental and otherwise -- of the unregulated bottled water industry.

As always at these monthly screenings of social issue films, the film was punctuated by lively discussion.

Panelists included Greater Victoria Water Watch Coalition's Janet Gray, media strategist and filmmaker Bill Weaver, CRD Water Conservation's Deborah Walker and Susanne Porter-Bopp, POLIS Project's community water co-ordinator.

"We're petrifying the marine environment, and it will affect all of us," filmgoer Carolyn Knight said, lamenting the "ribbons of plastic" and other unregulated waste cluttering our foreshores. "That's what I got from this movie."

Added Cheryl Bryce: "I'm hoping people will encourage others not to support privatization of our natural resource and protect what we have remaining."

Noting "water is essential to all forms of life" and shouldn't become a commodity, First Nations activist Rose Henry offered another perspective. Love them or hate them, plastic bottles are a source of income for "binners," she said.

"It's kind of the main source of supplementing a person's income," Henry said. "How's that going to impact people on the streets? There are going to be less bottles for them to collect, which means less income to get their basic needs met."

She said she'll be front and centre at Open Cinema's April 21 event -- a fundraising screening of Reel Injun: On the Trail of the Hollywood Indian, a documentary exploring the depiction of native North Americans through the history of cinema.

Open Cinema program director Mandy Leith said the proceeds will help offset cuts to the arts in B.C. The screening will be followed by an open-forum discussion. There will also be a silent auction, cash bar, organic pizza, free coffee, brownies and door prizes. Admission is by a suggested donation of \$10-\$20.

> On the web: opencinema.ca

Credit: Michael D. Reid; Times Colonist

Illustration

Colour Photo: Bruce Stotesbury, Times Colonist / Susanne Porter-Bopp, left, Janet Gray, Deborah Walker and Bill Weaver take part in a panel discussion of Tapped, the movie shown at the 75th Open Cinema Showcase. Colour Photo: Bruce Stotesbury, Times Colonist / Colour Photo: Bruce Stotesbury, Times Colonist / Above, Janet Gray of Water Watch sips tap water after making a toast Colour Photo: Bruce Stotesbury, Times Colonist / Mandy Leith keeps the glasses filled. Colour Photo: Bruce Stotesbury, Times Colonist / Activist Rose Henry enjoys the classic movie treat. Colour Photo: Bruce Stotesbury, Times Colonist / Kirk Schwartz, left, Peter Sandmark, rear, and Catlin Lewis, right, sample the tap water poured by Mandy Leith. Colour Photo: Bruce Stotesbury, Times Colonist / Cheryl Bryce and Carolyn Knight (who chose the free coffee over the tap water) were in the audience.; Caption:

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