

These three British shorts -- one from a past festival and two new Interlinked films -- were all produced by Cheek2Cheek Productions and directed by Seamus Rea. **Shown at the British Film Institute's 17th London Lesbian & Gay Film Festival 2-16 April 2003.**

REVIEWS BY RICH CLINE

GINGER BEER

dir Seamus Rea; **scr** Andy Seale; **with** Michael Leslie, Marcus Palfour, Karen DaSilva, Noreen Berry, Shersden Miller, Bryan Bale, Ruth Kavanagh • 00/UK 17m ★★★★★

This genuinely engaging romantic comedy centres on a nebbish teacher (Leslie) at an agricultural college who studies ballroom dancing by night. His students taunt him for being gay (the film's title refers to Cockney rhyming slang), but he quietly continues his studies, all the while hoping for a dance with the hunk he followed to the class to begin with. Obviously inspired by the Japanese hit *Shall We Dance*, this short is extremely well written, filmed and acted, maintaining the comic tone without ever becoming silly (well, until the inspired post-credits clip!). Nice music and dance too, including a sweet black and white fantasy segment. [Originally screened at the 2000 LLGFF] 14.Mar.03 llgff



TWO MINUTES AFTER MIDNIGHT

dir-scr Seamus Rea; **with** Andrew Hinton Brown, Mark Wakeling, Adrian Bouchet, Nigel Shipp, Alex King • 03/UK 12m ★★★★★

A companion piece with *The Judas Kiss*, this magical comedy takes place over one evening in a gay nightclub, where a guy (Brown) fails to chat up a hunk and runs off to the toilet to wallow in self pity. There he meets an angel (Wakeling) who grants him the ability to be the person of anyone's dreams ... but their dreams aren't exactly what he expects. Genuinely witty and funny, the film keeps us laughing while it gently makes its point. Sometimes a bit broad and goofy, sometimes a little too obvious--but it's also extremely well directed, edited and performed; it looks like a proper mini-feature. And it even has a clever *Twilight Zone* sting in its tail. 14.Mar.03 llgff



THE JUDAS KISS

dir-scr Seamus Rea; **with** Dominic Power • 03/UK 12m ★★★★★

This emotive short film takes place during a few seconds on the same night in the same London nightclub as *Two Minutes After Midnight*, but thematically it's much more grounded in the human heart as a man (Power) watches his boyfriend snogging a stranger. Handel's aria 'Sherza Infida' takes over the soundtrack as we spiral through this young man's mind, focussing on his relationship with his partner as well as his father. There's no dialog, just thoughts and feelings--and it's extremely effective, especially since, again, Rea shoots it with the highest production values available. It looks terrific! And it really gets under the skin emotionally. 14.Mar.03 llgff



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