

MOVIES FANTASTIC FEST

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10 MOVIES TO SEE AT FANTASTIC FEST

Fest

continued from 27

hip-hop”), Golan and Globus go all in, cranking out various “Death Wish” and Chuck Norris movies and making some fine-ish art now and then (John Cassavetes’ “Love Streams”). The two cousins didn’t participate in the documentary, but seemingly everyone else did. Look for interviews with Sybil Danning, Bo Derek and Marina “Counselor Troi” Sirtis. A must-see. 2:45 p.m. Friday; 11:25 a.m. Tuesday. — J.G.

“**John Wick:**” Stunt coordinator Chad Stahelski moves behind the camera for this minimalist riff on the assassin genre. Keanu Reeves plays Mr. Wick, a retired hitman with nothing left to lose except for his car and his dog. Co-starring Willem Defoe, Ian McShane and Alfie Allen (who between this and his role as Theon Greyjoy in “Game of Thrones” has cornered the market on playing disappointing sons). 8:30 p.m. Friday; 12:10 p.m. Tuesday. — J.G.



Keanu Reeves stars in “John Wick,” a different take on the assassin genre.

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Canada’s Eliot Scott is the subject of the new documentary “Kung Fu Elliot.”

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“**Kung Fu Elliot:**” This documentary from Matthew Bauckman and Jarret Belliveau focuses on a young Canadian man, Elliot Scott, who claims to have won some martial arts contests and dreams of becoming Canada’s first major movie action hero. The directors follow Scott in his first moviemaking efforts, all of which are a bit laughable, but Scott pursues his dream with earnestness. Then Scott decides that he’s going to make his breakout film, a karate epic called “Blood Fight.” All the while, his partner, Linda, works and pays the bills, but it’s clear that she’s beginning to wonder whether Scott has been telling her lies about his past - as well as about whether he’ll ever be able to make it in the movies. 2:30 p.m. Saturday; 11:30 a.m. Wednesday.

— CHARLES EALY

“**Lost Soul: The Doomed Journey of Richard Stanley’s Island of Dr. Moreau:**” One of the buzzy docs at the fest, “Lost Soul” takes a look at the disaster that was the 1996 version of “The Island of Dr. Moreau,” starring Val Kilmer and Marlon Brando. On paper it seemed a perfect fit: Stanley was a hot genre director at the time. But rumors about a troubled production started swirling, Stanley was fired on the first day of shooting, and things just snowballed from there. 2:20 p.m. Sunday; noon Tuesday. — J.G.

“**Nightcrawler:**” Speaking of buzzy, critics at the Toronto Film Festival were all aflutter (sorry) over this Dan Gilroy film starring (an apparently excellent) Jake Gyllenhaal as a bottom-feeding, ambulance-chasing man with a video camera trying to break into the savage world of tabloid crime journalism. 7:25 p.m. closing night, Sept. 25. — J.G.

“**Open Windows:**” Elijah Wood stars in this thriller from one of Fantastic Fest’s favorite directors, Nacho Vigalondo. It’s one of the most inventive films of recent years, unfolding on a laptop and in real time. Wood plays Nick Chambers, the fan of an actress named Jill Goddard (Sasha Grey), with whom he has won a dinner date in Austin via an Internet contest. It’s hard to describe in detail how the movie unfolds, but it’s clearly a commentary on the complicated relationships that people develop via the Internet, whether it’s through social media, webcams or other methods. As the film opens, Chambers is sitting in a hotel room, watching a panel discussion of Goddard’s latest film, which has just premiered at the Alamo Drafthouse, with Austin author Owen Egerton acting as the host. Chambers runs a website that’s devoted to Goddard, and he is supposed to have dinner with her after the Q&A. But an unknown man hacks into the website during the Q&A and reveals Goddard has canceled the date. Chambers thinks the mysterious man is somehow connected to the company that ran the contest. And then the man tells Chambers that Goddard



Jake Gyllenhaal plays an ambulance chaser in “Nightcrawler,” directed by Dan Gilroy.

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is surreptitiously meeting a lover in a room that’s just across from his hotel window. And the man instructs Chambers to film the meeting by putting a webcam there. Nick is initially reluctant, but he does as he’s asked, leading to a dangerous set of events. 5:45 p.m. Wednesday. — C.E.

Fest continued on 29



“Lost Soul: The Doomed Journey of Richard Stanley’s Island of Dr. Moreau” is a look at the famously disastrous adaptation of H.G. Wells classic.

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