

South African 'Cannes' do it!

For most people Cannes will always be a intriguing creative industry event taking place in the south of France, with a name most of us can't even pronounce (correct pronunciation: 'can') where all things film culminate. The Cannes Film Festival is a networking mecca of contacts, colleagues past and present and ultimately a springboard to the next cinematic collaboration.



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this competition that earned it a screening at the Cannes Festival last week, followed by a Q&A session which Rudolf led. It has also been nominated for a Golden Melies award and best European horror and fantasy film.

This however was not Rudolf B's first Cannes encounter. He has been twice before and in 2005 filmed on site called 'Lost in Cannes'.

Rudolf B started his film career by studying at the SA Film School at Pretoria Technikon, graduating as a director in 1995. He worked for a year in SA on various TV programmes and trailers, but soon got bored due to the lack of resources and limited market for films in SA. In 2006 he headed to the UK, where in London he initially worked as a trailer editor. He also made a couple of shorts in his career that have caught the attention of Universal, amongst others.

“Shorts are a calling card for a bigger career,” says Rudolf B who intends to work on his first feature film in the near future. There is no looking back for this SA director it seems.

Rearview will leave you reeling. It's amazing how something so short can tell a story so powerfully! To watch this 4 minute drama, go to www.bbc.com/newtalent/ and search for *Rearview*.

Sue Northam

RUDOLF Buitendach is a proud South African amidst the ebb and flow of directors, actors, producers and celebs at this year's 60th Cannes Festival which ran from 16 - 27 May, representing his short film *Rearview*, which earned itself a screening at this year's festival.

“Most people are running around on only three hours sleep,” says Buitendach who stepped out of a meeting with famous actor Malcolm McDowell to take my call.

Rudolf B, as he calls himself, is a film director who has earned his stripes over the last decade of his career. His latest Cannes offering, *Rearview*, is a 4 minute short film, shot in one uninterrupted take. The challenge to maintain an uninterrupted take was a self-set one, and highly effective too, adding to the eery unfoldings in the dark night.

The film itself is a dark tale of revenge, based on an urban legend, with a gut wrenching twist at the end. “Short films are not very public audience orientated, but this is changing now

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Rearview is an idea Rudolf B has had filed in his memory ever since he first heard the urban tale. It was a year ago that he decided to turn it into a visual project. Filmed in a new development in north London, Rudolf worked with fellow South African director of photography Brendon Rowen.

Rearview was then entered into the Los Angeles International Short Film Festival where it made its debut in September 2006. While in LA, Rudolf B got a call from the BBC to let him know that he had been nominated for the 'Best New Director 2006' award. The film was later screened on BBC3's New Talent programme in December 2006.

It was also entered into a competition locally in a UK association called the New Producers Alliance where it won the 'Audience Award for Short of the Year'. It was

