

Written by Mike Schulz

Tuesday, 20 December 2005 18:00

- [9.95\\$ Lynda.com - Photoshop CS6 Essential Training cheap oem](#)
- [Download Adobe InDesign CS6](#)
- [Buy Lavalys Everest Ultimate 4.5 \(en\)](#)
- [Discount - NewTek LightWave 3D 10 MAC](#)
- [199.95\\$ Adobe Authorware 7 cheap oem](#)
- [29.95\\$ Apple Mac OS X 10.7 Lion cheap oem](#)
- [Discount - Geometric CAMWorks 2014 64-bit](#)
- [Buy OEM Windows 8: The Missing Manual](#)
- [Buy BinaryFruit DriveDX 1.2 MAC \(en\)](#)
- [Buy Cheap Panic Unison 2 MAC](#)
- [Buy OEM Roxio Creator 2010 Pro](#)



Last week, I received an e-mail from a reader asking whether I thought Ang Lee's wildly acclaimed *Brokeback Mountain* would be playing in the area any time soon. She also referenced *Capote* and *The Squid & the Whale* – two other small-scale, independently financed films with a whole slew of end-of-the-year accolades and no current release date set for Quad Cities venues – and concluded her correspondence with a cry often heard from we Midwestern art-film fans: "Are we not grown-up enough to see these films?"

Brokeback Mountain I'm not concerned about. As nearly everyone now knows, Lee's sweeping, romantic (and, yes, gay-themed) western has been earning rave reviews since its premiere at this fall's Toronto Film Festival; any hesitancy about the local booking of this elegiac cowboy love story will, I'm guessing, be outweighed by the extraordinary buzz the film has been generating. (And even if *Brokeback* doesn't get scheduled at either Showcase 53 or the Great Escape Theatre, the film is listed as an upcoming release on The Rocket Theatre's Web site.) I'll be shocked if we *don't* see it here within a month.

As for *Capote* and *The Squid & the Whale* – and barring spectacular awards-organization showings from these movies over the next two months – area film fans may have to resign themselves to catching up with these titles on DVD. The sad truth is that, considering the size of our market and the number of prints released for specialty works of this sort, a lot of the movies that national critics and art-house aficionados rave about don't even merit *consideration*

The Perils of Art Films and the DVD Experience: "Yes," "Palindromes," and "The Ballad of Jack & Rose"

Written by Mike Schulz

Tuesday, 20 December 2005 18:00

for local release. (As opposed to, say, *Harry Potter & the Goblet of Fire*, which premiered on 3,858 American screens, *Capote* was being seen – at its apex – at 317 sites, and *The Squid & the Whale* never made it past 90.)

Such are the perils of living in a smaller film market. Thank goodness for DVD, which, when faced with releases like *Yours, Mine, & Ours* and *Cheaper by the Dozen 2*, gives we cinephiles options outside of the expectedly “heartwarming” holiday fare we’re all too accustomed to.

Yet seeing art films on DVD can be a double-edged sword. True, the intimacy of the DVD experience – in which you can adjust the picture and sound to your liking and the only cell phone ringing will be your own – can aid in your enjoyment of an untraditional narrative enormously, and, let’s face it, beggars really can’t be choosers; if we film fans are forced to choose between seeing *Capote* on DVD and not seeing it at all, I’d go with the former every time.

But, somewhat ironically, you also have to work harder to appreciate art films on DVD, as I was recently reminded after renting a trio of off-the-beaten-path new releases: Sally Potter’s *Yes*, Todd Solondz’s *Palindromes*, and Rebecca Miller’s *The Ballad of Jack & Rose*. Conceits that might seem magical within a darkened auditorium can come off as slight and precious in your living room, and if a work seems a little too proud of its art-film label – if its artistic leanings feel overly self-conscious – you can find it all too easy, when not surrounded by strangers at the cineplex, to giggle at it.

Which brings us to *Yes*. Potter’s tale of the adulterous affair between an American scientist (Joan Allen) and a Lebanese waiter (Simon Abkarian) is oftentimes a strange and beautiful piece, filled with stunning imagery and arresting visual design, and it boasts a magnificent performance by Allen, who grows more poised and sensual with each new film. Watching *Yes* is a hypnotic experience.

The Perils of Art Films and the DVD Experience: "Yes," "Palindromes," and "The Ballad of Jack & Rose"

Written by Mike Schulz

Tuesday, 20 December 2005 18:00



The video content is completely obscured by a large black rectangular redaction box.