

Anton Evangelista Touching Tribute to His Father Umberto E.

by Margaret Durbeck

It is always great to escape a heat wave by going to the movies, so on June 21st in the middle of the first heat wave of the summer myself and cousin Mario Togila attended the 12th Annual Visionfest Films Festival at Tribeca Cinemas on Varick. Visionfest Films Festival was born from a film magazine Guerilla Filmmaker that formed into a festival when sponsors, and advertisers were found for Short Subjected films, animation, and documentaries.

After learning that his father had stomach cancer, Anton Evangelista, writer, director, producer for over twenty years and the owner of Comprehensive Films, started to work on a documentary in 2007 about his immigrant father Umberto in order to preserve his story and share it with family and friends.

Using photos, video and narrative, Anton paints a portrait of his father as one who overcomes the misfortunes and harshness of childhood to become the devoted caring person in adulthood. His father was born in Bari, Italy. After his mother died at the age

of four, his father sends young Umberto to an orphanage for unwanted children run strict nuns who controlled their charges through fear and harshness. Umberto's father remarried and his new wife rejected the child to favor their own children.

Once Umberto is discharged from the orphanage, his father pulls strings to get him into an agrarian school rather than allow him to return home.

Umberto found a way to with the use of his Catholic faith to raise up from all the strikes against him, it takes a strong person to pull themselves together and move forward. Despite all this rejection by his father, Umberto chose forgiveness and love rather than resentment and anger as weapons of revenge.

Umberto as adult enters the Italian Army and quickly raises to sergeant after the World War II he marries the love of his life Luisa and becomes a policeman. While raising a family of four in Matera, his wife dreams of moving to America since her family had moved to the Bronx. Umberto loves his wife so much

that he gave up his police career and moves to a small apartment in the Arthur Ave part of the Bronx. Umberto and family have to start over again leading a life of love in America. I enjoyed Anton's creative use of just simply letting the camera roll let us watch how charming, funny and obsess with crossword puzzles Umberto E was.

This biographical documentary should not be missed! It's one of the better films I have seen this year.

Screenings of Umberto E are: Friday September 7th 2012 7pm at Westchester Italian Cultural Center, One Generoso Pope Place, Tuckahoe, New York 10707, 914-771-8700, web site <http://wiccnyc.org>.

Wednesday October 17th 2012 1:00 pm Free Event! Hunter College, Lexington Avenue and 68th Street. Sponsored by the Dept of Romance Language and Italian Club, Part of Italian Cultural Month.

If your interested in purchasing the DVD or any movie by Anton Evangelista's films go to his web site, www.comprehensivefilms.com

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