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Man on the Train: Cannes 2011 Review

2:01 PM 5/25/2011 by Duane Byrge

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The Bottom Line

Erudite and earthy drama about a retired professor and a vagabond criminal who bond.

Cast:

Donald Sutherland, Larry Mullen, Jr., Paula Boudreau, Graham Greene, Kate O'Toole, Greg Byrk, Samuel Jephcott

Director:

Mary McGuckian

The remake of Patrick Leconte's 2002 film stars Donald Sutherland and U2 drummer Larry Mullen, Jr.

CANNES - A superb re-make of Patrick Leconte's 2002 film, *Man on the Train* is a scrumptiously literate character drama. Starring **Donald Sutherland** and U2 drummer **Larry Mullen, Jr.**, this well-crafted entertainment's appeal will be to a mature, intelligent demographic.

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Their polar differences spark a friendship: Each learns from the other's point-of-view and way-of-life. Under Mary McGuckian's perceptive hand, we're treated to an unlikely personal bonding of two divergent personalities.

Man on the Train is a ripe illumination, buoyed by the sterling lead performances of Sutherland and Mullen. Sutherland lays out the rich inner life of a man who holds disappointment for the cautious existence he has maintained. Wondrously, the uneducated blunt stranger's probes and blunt observations jolt the professor from his self-constraining views. From this uneducated bloke, he becomes aware that, in his own way, he has led a rich life, albeit manifested by his inner being.

In exchange, the detached professor enriches the straightforward criminal to an alternate appreciation of life, as well.

Cinematographer Stefan von Bjorn's silken hues and production designer Jennifer Carroll's vibrant furnishings are precisely right for this full-bodied film.

Venue: Cannes Film Festival

Based on the 2002 Patrick Leconte film

Cast: Donald Sutherland, Larry Mullen, Jr., Paula Boudreau, Graham Greene, Kate O'Toole, Greg Byrk, Samuel Jephcott

Director:

Mary McGuckian

Producers: Martin Katz, Mary McGuckian
Director of photography: Stefan von Bjorn
Production designer: Jennifer Carrol
Costume designer: Melissa Stewart
Editor: Matthew Booth
No rating, 100 minutes

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