

E-MAILS RECEIVED AFTER the WORLD PREMIERE

**Held on August 1st 2009 at the Regency Fairfax Cinema in Los Angeles
at the New York International Independent Film and Video Festival for Los Angeles - 2009**

Dear Talbot,

I want to add my praise to what must be a long waiting list. Thank you for inviting me to the premiere of "Still the Drums." For me, the film succeeded on many levels -- casting, acting, directing, photography, editing, etc. For you, especially, as a true auteur, it is quite an achievement, all the more remarkable as a first film.

My guess is that the picture will do very well in future festivals and, more important, will do good things for your career(s) and the careers of everyone involved.

Again, congratulations.

All the best,

Basil

P.S. I thought the mood created by the lighting and the photography was apparent and appropriate. Take a look at the films shot by the great Gordon Willis.

Basil Hoffman, Actor, Acting Teacher and Author

<http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0388819/>

www.basilhoffman.com

Director's Note: The United States State Department has designated award winning, character actor, acting teacher and author Basil Hoffman, as Cultural Envoy to Lebanon to teach acting and directing in Beirut at the University of Balamand's Academie Libanaise des Beaux-Arts (ALBA), the Lebanese University (LU), Notre Dame University (NDU), and St. Joseph University's Institut D'Etudes Sceniques Audiovisuelles et Cinematographiques (IESAV).

Hey, Talbot--

Just wanted to let you know again how impressive your accomplishment is.--It was great to see your movie. You filled the house! My friend Judith is a writer and got a degree in Filmmaking from UCLA and she said she thought your story was indeed unusual and compelling--and that you are a very good actor.

Nancy Buchannon - Faculty, School of Film/Video, Cal Arts, Valencia California

P.S.

I neglected to say that **I thought your acting was terrific, too--**
you always were really charismatic--still are!

N

I just returned from seeing the World Premier of "Still the Drums". **It was a riveting story told in a compelling manner.** Producer, writer, director, actor, Talbot Perry Simons, made it the "audience's movie".

Powerfully written, acted superbly! During one scene between Talbot and Bobby Figaro, I felt as if I was watching Al Pacino and Robert De Niro, in the diner scene from the movie "Heat"!

Suffice to say; we, the audience, did not see "the ending" coming. It left everyone in the packed theatre speechless when exiting! **Wow!!**

Jack Lassen - EuroPacific Securities

Talbot,

I knew this movie would be well received. I think your background in stage and your commitment led to this outcome. I am not surprised. You have every reason to be proud. You did it with classsssssss!

The audience was free to experience this story because the script, actors, direction and production were so clean and flawless that the truths that this unique and daring film revealed were beautiful and unforgettable. So relevant and so real.. WOW! Talbot Perry Simons is on his way.

Congrats,

Ron Silver - Prairie Entertainment - <http://www.shootinghenryhill.com/>

Hi Talbot,

I'm thankful for actor, Bobby Figaro, making such an effort to introduce me to you. It was nice talking to you on the phone. But, unfortunately, not as nice as seeing your **incredible work on film**, both, you and Bobby Figaro. Your own battle of staying in the trenches with Still The Drums for over a decade (13 years) is **a note worthy testimonial of one following his own dream**, and not just dreaming how it could be, if...you just did it.

Of course, the impressive intrigue of the endgame is the film you made, from your story. Talbot Perry Simons: you, as Tom, Bobby Figaro: as Mike, Richard as Al; **the entire cast was mesmerizing.**

The **critical, pulsating, and engaging moments** of your story were not exciting "feature house" movie fare, pleasing to a distributor. The way you wrote and directed these moments, resulted in **a visual translation of a man's instinctive nature in the face of human purpose**: truth; our truth, what is really at the end of the day, a man's truth? Even in the midst of war? This film brings it home. It seems, these days, the higher the budget for a new film, the more stuff there is flying all over the screen; and there is the loss of story, concept, and basically interest (My eyes spend too much work, blinking.) But what you did with the budget provided by faithful agony, over, ecstasy is, **an example, of truth in film-making as Art**; not ambiguity to create confusion. But a fine directorial debut for you, wonderful acting by, both, you, and my buddy (After all, this is a buddy film.), Bobby Figaro.

Respectively Yours,

Don Baldaramos - Actor & Award Winning Producer. Creative Director [Atrium Entertainment Films](#)

Hi Talbot,

Congrats on last night!! I don't think you could have put one more person in that theater!! **Everyone looked great on screen! The whole thing was just a great experience and I know you have put your heart and soul into this film--it showed!**
Jen Kolkin, Cypress, CA

Congrats, Talbot!!!

I'm really happy for you and the success of your great film!

Regards,

Kip Konwiser - Producer - Gigapix Studios

Hey Talbot,

I just wanted to drop a note to tell you how much I enjoyed "Still The Drums" at the festival last week. And to congratulate you on all the hard work I know it must have taken to bring it to life on the screen. Well done! Thanks again for a great evening!

Chris Bosley, Smart Girl Productions

Talbot:

Congratulations on getting such a fine review. I agree with the review. **I thought the facial expressions were very compelling. Your film clearly was the hit during the festival - and festival director Stuart Alson, provided wonderful images of your full theater in his recent email. This is even more impressive as there were no scantily dressed young ladies in your film! Best of luck with your program.**

Take care,

Ephraim K. Smith, Ph. D. - President - Heritage Productions, Inc.

<http://www.powerforparkinsons.com/>

"Still the Drums": "A gripping and shocking drama about the anguish of war, the bonds of friendship and innocence lost".

Patricia Bolt, Writer/Producer

Dear Talbot,

You should be very proud. I certainly am very proud of you. **So much, so gorgeous to look at.** Looking forward to seeing you in many, many more movies and sending much love,

Jane Marla Robbins - Author, Actor, Los Angeles, CA

Hi Talbot,

I viewed your film last Sat. evening. **It was captivating**, and time well spent. Bobby gave me your address. Not because he is a friend, I really believe that he nailed the role. **Afterwards I thought of other anti war films; Johnny Get Your Gun, All Quiet On the Western Front.** Being your first flick, I think your off to a flying start.

Steve Roth, Gigapix Studios - Los Angeles

Still The Drums is a taut little film with big powerful themes.

The action scenes are filled with nerve-racking tension and suspense.

Go see it. I was riveted!

Tony Wright - Publisher, Smart Reference Books

Posted on imdb

The Premiere was Great! - 5 August 2009

This is a poignant and moving independent film!

Richard Fulvio's performance was understated, consistent and excellent throughout. It is difficult for three actors to effectively carry such long and difficult scenes. **This film had flashes of brilliance that reminded me of Glengarry Glen Ross.** The three clear and effective acts with outstanding original music built to a stunning and exhausting climax. **This film sheds light on the complexity and collateral heartbreak that accompanies all wars.** I hope this film and Richard's acting gets notice and praise at this and other film festivals. Great job to all who were involved in making this film.

Ray Lantz - Upland, CA

This film caught me off guard the many twists and turns, but the thing of it is **I can't seem to get it out of my mind.**

Rick Surbeck, Claremont, CA

"Still the Drums"-- **A quiet sensitive alternative examination of a tragic time in the nation's history.** Very thoughtful and timely for today. Weeks later, I find myself thinking about the questions this film raised.

Kathleen Walsh, NYC, NY

Talbot,

Congratulations on the premier of "Still The Drums." Truly an impressive achievement! I found the film potent, provocative, and engrossing. The story, the performances, the atmosphere, were all realized deftly, and convincingly. In a time when war still plagues us with questions of loyalty, justification, and morality, your film reminds us that the people who actually fight these wars, the soldiers, never win, and can never be compensated enough for the sacrifices and sufferings they endure for country, comrades, or themselves. **And yet, far from being simply a 'war movie,' you manage to bring humor and lightness into this absurd tragedy so that we are entertained while at the same time pulled into a riveting and heart-wrenching experience.** The film puts us in touch with our humanity on many levels, and the plight of your characters resonated with me, as I think it did with all who attended. Again, congratulations, and thank you.

John Hugo - North Hollywood, CA

My Dearest Talbot, Richard & Bob,

Watching your extraordinary film "Still the Drums", brought me tremendous joy, emotional highs and new found heights in your work. I was very impressed with the moment to moment work, transitions and subtle nuances all of you provided. I watched the film twice and never once found myself anticipating anything even though I knew the story. **I was so enraptured in the moment.** My compliments to each of you.

Thank you for allowing my name to be a part of this fine production.

I also thank all of you for being true to your craft.

All of my love and respect. *Pat Randall, Actor's Studio, Author and former instructor at the Lee Strasberg Institute in Hollywood.*