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Star Poll
 Do you think a deal will be struck to allow the...
 ...
 ...

Inbrief
Sugar Martinis named the Battering Cafe
 ...
 ...

Deal opens after dangerous crash
 ...
 ...



Eyes on the prize
 ...
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Director comes home for Cinefest

Former Lasalle student brings his new movie, *A Day In The Death of Jack Richards*, to Sudbury film festival

By Laura Stradiotto
 THE SUDBURY STAR

For four straight years, Benjamin Paquette won an award at the former video store, Bandito Video, for the most movies rented.

The movie junkie would go to the video store, select a row of films and then work his way down.

While he wasn't popping movies into his VCR, he concentrated on writing — so much so that he would write other students' essays.

He used the money he made from writing essays to purchase laser disks and other video equipment.

Nowadays, the 29-year-old is living in Montreal, making films and working as the film director at a private college.

His first professional feature film as a producer, writer and director, *A Day In The Death of Jack Richards*, plays Sunday at 11:30 a.m. at SilverCity.

The story goes back 20 years, when the daughter of theology professor Jack Richards goes missing. Richards believes she has been abducted by a cult.

While there's no proof of his theory, his wife leaves him and he spends some time in a mental institution.

The film begins when Richards is in his 50s and still determined to prove that his daughter was kidnapped by a cult.

Richards is mentally distraught and intends to commit suicide. Rather than do the act himself, he allows himself to be picked up by a cult that, one year later, will sacrifice him.

"The movie itself is from the point of view from this guy," said Paquette.



Paquette

Cinefest wraps Sunday

- Saturday**
 11 a.m. Videomakers Competition
 11 a.m. Kart Racer
 12 p.m. Lauzon/Lauzone
 1 p.m. Pitch'n It
 1 p.m. Seven Times Lucky
 1:30 p.m. Canada Shorts Three
 2 p.m. Red Roses and Petrol
 3 p.m. South From Granada
 4 p.m. Kwik Stop
 6 p.m. The World in Shorts — A World of Funny
 7 p.m. I (Heart) Huckabees (gals; leave bags behind or check them in)
 8 p.m. Jeux D'Enfants
 9:30 p.m. Saint Ralph
 10 p.m. La PEAU Blanche
 11 p.m. Human Error
- Sunday**
 11 a.m. Northern Connections
 11 a.m. NFB Animation
 11:30 a.m. A Year in the Life of Jack Richards
 12 p.m. Littoral
 1 p.m. Letters from Karelia
 1:30 p.m. Japanese Story
 2:30 p.m. Cinefest Sudbury 2004 Awards Ceremony
 2:30 p.m. Siblings
 3:30 p.m. Mondovino
- 4 p.m. Behind the Mascot
 7 p.m. The Sea Inside (gala)
 8 p.m. Metallica: Some Kind of Monster
- ◆◆◆
Pitch'n It goes today: Eleven people are one step closer to having their idea for a film or TV show recognized by industry professionals. Finalists for Cinefest Sudbury's Pitch'n It contest sponsored by *The Sudbury Star* have been announced. They are: Ruth Dorman of Elliot Lake, Marliese Gause of Parry Sound, Frank Racicot of Wahnapietue, and Cliff Skulliter, Clem Gareau, Shawn Timony, Chris Krejlgard, Ralph Johnson, Mickey Teed, Henry Bujak and Valerie Senyk, all of Sudbury.
- Today, the finalists will have six minutes each to sell themselves and their ideas to a panel of industry professionals.
- The winner, who will be announced at Sunday's award ceremony, receives \$1,000 toward the creation of their film.
- Pitch'n It takes place today from 1-3 p.m. at SilverCity, off Barrydowne Road. Admission is free.

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