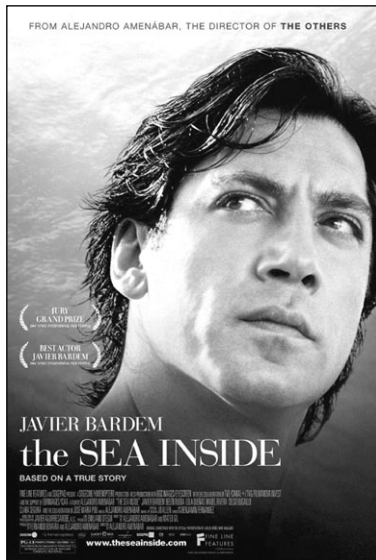


Fighting for the right to die



Movie
The Sea Inside
Dir - Alejandro Amenabar
Review by Bonnie White

In his dreams, he is walking along a golden beach, the waves lapping at his feet as they make footprints in the sand.

In reality, he will never again be able to walk beside this sea he knows so well.

Based on the true story of quadriplegic Ramon Sampedro, Javier Bardem plays a poetic, intelligent and attractive man plagued by tragedy in *The Sea Inside* (Mar Adentro), the latest

film by Spanish writer/director Alejandro Amenabar.

After snapping his spine in a sea-diving accident as a young man, Ramon is confined to a bed for the rest of his life, unable to move anything but his face, and unwilling to live this way.

Fighting for his right to die in a country that won't allow him to, and unable to do it himself, Ramon looks to the two women in his life for solace — Rosa (Lola Duenas), a local who befriends and eventually falls in love with Ramon, and Julia (Belen Rueda), who is suffering a degenerative disease that will eventually leave her in the same

state as Ramon.

The performances in *The Sea Inside* are exceptional. Bardem's ability to convey a man so mentally strong yet so physically debilitated is compelling, but as viewers we are also pulled down a strange and confusing path by Amenabar.

There are many stories of people in similar disabled situations who are happy and proud to live this way, and Ramon makes it clear he does not speak for anyone else in his position, but his challenge of the innate instinct for survival feels so unnatural as to almost offend, despite his convincing arguments.

This hits home in a particularly sad scene when Joaquin (Joan Dalmou), Ramon's father, learns of the seriousness of his son's fight for death.

"There is only one thing worse than your kid dying on you. Him wanting to," Joaquin says, the pain and helplessness on his face heartbreaking and exhausting to watch.

As Amenabar once said in an interview: "My movies are not movies of answers, but of questions."

The Sea Inside is ultimately an inquiry into the value of life — just don't expect to find out what that is.

LaChappelle's debut a riotous gem

Movie
Rize
Dir - David LaChapelle
Review by Emma Page

Jam-packed with riotous colour and oozing exuberant energy, *Rize* is one entertaining ride of a documentary. A visually sumptuous masterpiece, the film doesn't disappoint on the content side either, achieving what every good documentary should by providing an informed glimpse into a world you never knew existed.

In this case the world revolves around a new euphorically high energy form of hip hop dance emerging on the streets of South Central LA.

It's an underground culture so foreign it takes a while to get your head around it. There are clown troupes dressed up and face-painted dancing-like-pos-

sessed-fly girls at children's birthday parties and kids "krumping" (dancing) so fast they defy the film's opening disclaimer that none of the footage is "sped up or altered in any way".

Refreshingly there are no "voice of God" experts providing commentary on the proceedings with debut director David LaChapelle allowing his subjects to tell their own story. At times however, LaChapelle's directorial voice seems to come through rather loudly leaving a slightly patronising aftertaste in its wake.

This is especially true when he attempts to make a parallel between African dancing and krumping by inter-splicing shots of both and when he is at pains to emphasise how clowning and krumping are positive alternatives to the usual South Central fare of gang banging, drugs and

violence.

While this is his first feature-length film, LaChapelle is well known in the art world for his cleverly surreal photographs and classy music videos directing clips for the likes of Gwen Stefani, Moby and Christine Aguilera (apparently he was introduced to krumping while making Aguilera's raunchy *Dirrty* video).

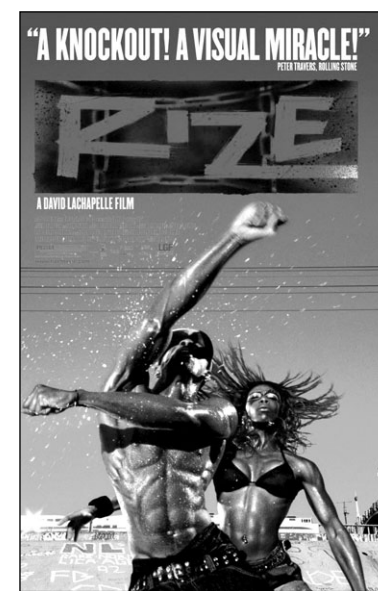
Rize has a trademark super slick, uber-polished LaChapelle feel stamped all over it and while this makes for sexy stunning visuals it doesn't always work with the documentary's underlying message that krumping isn't sell out, bling-bling, commercial hip hop. As master krumper Dragon says: "This is not a trend."

What does work beautifully is the kicking sound track comprised of original non-commercial tunes that help move the

documentary story-telling along by reinforcing what the dancers are expressing and experiencing. Nowhere is this more true than the climatic Battle Zone scene where the lyrics "krump, clown, break it on down" complement the classic hip hop battle dance off perfectly.

Rize is a film that grabs your eyes first and despite its cheesier moments wiggles its way down to your heart (and booty). You can't help but leave the cinema in a heightened state of euphoria and the showing at Auckland Film Festival's closing night saw a handful of viewers krumping their way down the steps of the Civic Theatre. You can't get much more infectious than that.

Rize showed at the Auckland and Wellington Film Festivals and will be showing at Rialto from the beginning of September.



What's on

music

Tadpole
Studio
340 Karanghape Rd
August 26, 8.30pm
with Autozamm and Stood

The Convoy - Fleet FM 88.3
Old Union Fish Company building
118 Quay Street
August 27, 8.30pm
with State Radio, Pluto, North Shore Pony Club, Gwaan Gal, Lord Galen

Foamy Ed
Kings Arms
with Rock and Roll Machine
August 27

Katchafire
AUT Expo @ Aotea Square
September 1
Brownzy Sports Bar, Browns Bay
September 2, 9.30pm

Kitsch
EP release show
Grey Lynn Community Centre
510 Richmond Road
September 3, 8pm
with 5th Threat

sport

Badminton
Aug 26-28
Equinox NZ Badminton Open
Auckland Badminton Hall
99 Gilles Ave, Epsom

Basketball
Aug 27 - NZ Tall Ferns v Australia, Napier
Aug 28 - NZ Tall Ferns v Australia, Te Awamutu
Sept 4 - NZ Breakers v Cairns Taipans, Waitakere Trusts Stadium, 4.30pm

NZ University Winter Games
Aug 27 - Sept 3
Cardrona Ski Field

Rugby
Aug 27 - Womens NPC, Auckland v Hawkes Bay, Eden Park
Aug 27 - NPC, North Harbour v Canterbury, North Harbour, 4.35pm.
Aug 27 - All Blacks v South Africa, Carisbrook, 7.35pm
Aug 28 - NPC, Auckland v Southland, Eden Park, 2.35pm
Sept 3 - All Blacks v Australia, Eden Park, 7.35pm
Sept 4 - NPC, North Harbour v Northland, North Harbour, 12.30pm

Rugby League
Aug 28 - Fox Memorial preliminary semi-finals, Ericsson Stadium
Richmond v Manurewa, 12.30pm
Mangere East v Mt Albert, 2.35pm

Aug 28 - Bartercard Cup preliminary semi-final
Tigers v Hibiscus Coast Raiders, North Harbour Stadium, 3.40pm

Soccer
Aug 28 - NZFC Invitation XI v Soloman Islands, Waitakere Trusts Stadium, 2pm
Sept 2 - NZ Knights v Sydney FC, North Shore, 8pm
Sept 4 - Uncle Tobys women's knock-out cup
Lynn Avon United v Eastern Suburbs, Olympic Park, Portage Road, New Lynn, 12pm
Sept 5 - Chatham Cup Final
Central United v Palmerston North Marist, North Harbour Stadium, 7pm

theatre

My Brother and I are Porn Stars
Silo Theatre
Until September 3
Abandoned after their parents mysterious disappearance in the 70s, Jackie & Jon have been left alone to grow up. They continue to run the porn business their parents left but as the sales start to fall they desperately search for a way to keep the only world they've ever known intact. In a mixture of madness we join them as they try everything and anything to stay together. As their world begins to buckle, Jackie resolves to put an end to the wrongness and make a dash for normality.

Then Comes Love
The Civic Theatre
September 6-11
Hot off the pen of one of New Zealand's foremost dramatists comes the world premiere of the juicy, wry and scintillating comedy *Then Comes Love*. Starring Zoe Lucker from *Footballers Wives* and Shayne Cortese, *Shortland Street* and more recently *Dancing with the Stars*. A comedy about a chance encounter, he is married, she is engaged but despite their best intentions love has other plans.

The Wholly Grain
Herald Theatre @ The Edge
August 31 to September 10
In a NZ fish and chip shop, young Jocelyn Chan dreams of anything but taking over the family business. Jocelyn's journey forces her to delve into the past, into the old world of superstition, and the story of a princess from the Han Dynasty. A cross-cultural story about what it means to find your way.

Planet FM 104.6

Mon - Mandarin, 1.30pm
Hip Hop, 10.20pm
Tue - Niuean, 8am
Cambodian, 2.10pm
Wed - Hindi, 8am
Cantonese, 1.30pm
Thur - Gay/Lesbian, 7am
Green, 8am
Hard Rock, 11.35pm
Fri - Kiwi, 8.10am
Christian, 2.10pm
Romanian, 10.05pm
Sat - Spanish, 10am
French, 3.35pm
Sun - Jewish, 9am
Scientology, 10.50pm