

Early Praise for “Guys Reading Poems”



Winner - Audience Award - Best Narrative Feature/Drama
25th annual Woods Hole Film Festival

Winner - Jury Award - “Creativity in Drama”
36th annual Breckenridge Film Festival

Winner - “Best of Fest”
South Texas Underground Film Festival

“[Hunter Lee] Hughes’ film has a universal appeal. By channeling the pain of damaged youth into a unique filmic meditation, he has created a touchstone for anyone who struggles to reconcile these psychic scars within their own life. It’s an interior landscape that can be recognized by almost anyone, of course; and by treating it with candor, acknowledging its dark beauty, and honoring its inseparability from identity, **Hughes has given us a movie which illuminates the path to transcendence.** “Guys Reading Poems” is unequivocally an art film, and as such unlikely to achieve widespread success at the box office; but for those of us who appreciate the bravery required not only to confront these difficult issues, but to explore them in such a public and honest manner, it is a much-appreciated effort and worthy of being sought out. **It deserves to be called essential viewing.**”

- John Paul King, L.A. Blade

“Luke Judy plays their son, and he earns favorable comparisons to Jacob Tremblay for Room....There is **never a moment in the film that looks less than gorgeous**, thanks to the black-and-white cinematography.”

- Jeremy Ross, Living Out Loud L.A.

“Life is a puzzle that’s not meant to be solved, just experienced. The same is true of Hunter Lee Hughes’ ingenious feature film, Guys Reading Poems – a majestic, all-embracing account of how a vulnerable young boy learns to glibly mold his childhood suffering into art, tenderness and creative literature. **Astutely constructing the motion picture as a poetry-imbued testimony for the transformative power of imagination in relieving pain, the director manages to craft a gripping mindbender that compels the viewer to gasp both in terror and awe** of the complex intricacies and repercussions of heartrending art.”

- Alexander Ryll, GayEssential

“A **visual poetic experience** and **jaw-dropping black-and-white thriller** that will leave you questioning your existence.”

- Ernest Owens, Philadelphia Magazine

“As a testament to why film festivals are so amazing, I was **completely enthralled** by the neo-noir poetry drama, Guys Reading Poems, where filmmaker Hunter Lee Hughes tells the story of a dysfunctional family through the use of poetry. Shot beautifully in black and white, this movie resembled a modern-day silent film, at times using only music and action to create the scene. **This was the unexpected surprise of the festival for me!**”

- Nikki DeMC, Lavender Inspiration & Beach Magazine

“**The film itself is a masterpiece**, filmed in black-and-white and framed by poetry.”

- Dr. Shelley Plumb, Plumb Talk Women

“Amidst the hundreds of submissions to the 21st Palm Beach International Film Festival, Guys Reading Poems was **truly unique**. I knew we had to include it in this year’s lineup. What a stroke of original filmmaking. **We have nothing else like it and I don’t think we ever have in our history**. I can’t wait for our audiences to experience it!”

- Larry Richman, Festival Director,
Palm Beach International Film Festival

“As a poet and the creator of the Def Poetry series I was really interested in a movie with poetry as its central theme. I had high hopes but worried so much could go wrong, mostly it could reinforce the false notion that poetry is boring. Well, with this film that couldn’t be further from the truth. The characters are interesting and well defined and **the storyline is gripping and magical**. The **crisp cinematography** pulled me into every nuance of the story, but the poetry itself is the best of all its commanding qualities. The poems themselves are thoughtful and complex. Words that I wanted to continually contemplate. They carry the production and never let go. In a succinct sentence, **I can wrap this up by saying it is way dope and I wanna see it again.**”

- Danny Simmons, Creator
HBO television series “Russell Simmons’ Def Poetry Jam”

For continued updates on reviews, please visit our website:

GuysReadingPoems.com