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Big Movies for Little Kids on Governors Island

By: A. C. Lee September 13, 2012



"He's Not My Dragon," a film from students. Credit... Children's Museum of the Arts

Cinemagoing highbrows tend to praise Buster Keaton in reverent tones. But the Miser knows from experience that nothing beats seeing "Steamboat Bill Jr." while sandwiched between breast-feeding moms and enduring endless potty-break exoduses, all underscored by an aria of teething tantrums and the crunch of Skittles underfoot.

That would essentially describe Big Movies for Little Kids, a series that has been held at Cobble Hill Cinemas in Brooklyn — and made new parenthood a little more palatable — since 2005.

Lately the kids themselves have been getting in on the action. Encouraged by a student-made short that screened a few years back, series organizers put out an open call for movies made by students in New York who are under 18. And perhaps not surprisingly, given their upbringing in the era of ubiquitous digital media, youngsters these days know more than a thing or two about shooting and cutting with iPhones and laptops.

On Sunday the series will present its second annual student film festival at the Children's Museum of the Arts

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outpost in Building 11 in Nolan Park on Governors Island. Starting at 11 a.m. a selection of movies made for kids by kids will be screened free. Children can also participate in moviemaking activities led by museum staff members.

(Sunday, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.; govisland.com, bigmoviesforlittlekids.blogspot.com.)

OH, BROTHERS

There's something about brothers in art. It seems only the deepest kind of fraternal telepathy could produce the surreal animations of the Quay Brothers, the uncanny harmonizing of the Wilsons in the Beach Boys' best songs or the sensationally deviant sculpture of Jake and Dinos Chapman.

On Saturday the St. Louis-born siblings Steven and William Ladd will tap this tradition with the premiere of their installation and performance piece "Shaboygen" at the Invisible Dog, as part of the French Institute Alliance Française's Crossing the Line festival.

The immersive environment, remaining on display through Nov. 3, uses an array of mediums, including sculpture and live performance, to evoke a rather traumatic-sounding shared experience from their childhood, apparently involving a fire-engulfed car.

(Saturday, reception from 6 to 10 p.m., performances at 7 and 9 p.m., free; 51 Bergen Street at Smith Street, Boerum Hill, Brooklyn, (347) 560-3641, theinvisibledog.org, fiaf.org.)