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## **Watershed August 2011 Podcast**

It's that time of year when sane people are thinking about sun, sea and holidays, however for me it's about diving into the imagination of short filmmakers to begin to put together the competitive programmes of shorts for **Encounters International Short Film Festival** in November. So it'll be an appropriately short podcast this month. We've got circa 1700 submissions and a bunch of people have already begun the process of whittling down to a big shortlist which I'll be working through. Of the couple of hundred I've watched there is yet again excellent, inspiring imaginings happening in the short film world.

**The Passion of Joan of Arc** has had another outing at the recent I'll Be Your Mirror in London curated by Portishead and ATP. The response to it was phenomenal. Over 2000 people turned up in the middle of a festival of great music to stand and watch the film with the new live score. What was extraordinary was not only the rapt attention of the audience, the intensity of the score but the power of Carl Theodor Dreyer's images. Those close ups of Maria Falconetti being questioned, prosecuted and taunted are amongst the most powerful in cinema. Her every expression, flickering eye movement and tears held in tight pained close up by the camera have lost none of their resonance some 90 years after they were made.

Very pleased to hear that a **New York** date has been confirmed for late October where the new score will be presented at the Lincoln Centre as part of the White Light festival <http://www.whitelightfestival.org/>

Whilst Joan was being presented in London back at Watershed we were presenting Terrence Malick's **Tree of Life** with an onstage interview with Bristol's own celebrated wildlife filmmaker Nigel Ashcroft. Why you might ask? Well Malick's new film has an extraordinary section that in 20 stunning minutes charts the evolution of life on earth. Who better to capture those images than someone from Bristol's celebrated BBC Natural History Unit? In chatting to Nigel you discover how knowledgeable and fascinated Malick is by natural history filmmaking. Nigel's

experience of working on the Tree of Life and discussing filmmaking with Terrence Malick are fantastic insights. You can see the onstage interview with Nigel published on <http://www.dshed.net/tree-life-qa>.

As I am sure you already know it is less than a year until the **London Olympics**. There were events taking place to mark the "year til" the show starts but also to announce a year of cultural activities leading up to the launch. One of the most spectacular was Pervasive Media Studio resident **Luke Jerram's Sky Orchestra** that launched balloons over London playing music to residents below. We in Bristol are used to the sight of balloons drifting slowly over the city I can only imagine the joyous surprise of Londoners on seeing and hearing Luke's Sky Orchestra. You can find see some of the amazing images at <http://www.skyorchestra.co.uk/>

Now for me it is back to the long day of the short film. Have a great summer.