Cleveland International Film Festival, Entertainment Impact »

'Adrift' is a meditative import from Vietnam

By John Petkovic, The Plain Dealer
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There's something meditative yet suffocating about Bui Thac Chuyen's story of unfulfilled desire during one rainy summer in Hanoi.

There are the newlyweds -- who seem like an unhappy couple, but you never get the feeling that they think about it or even expect to be happy. Then there's the writer, a woman tormented that the bride, the object of her desire, is married to the man. And not just because he's a do-nothing.

At times, "Adrift" seems to be a film about sexual and emotional repression. But as it unfolds, there's something else at work, revealed bit by bit -- which is what makes "Adrift" unique.

This isn't about repression; it's about locating desire buried so deep inside that you didn't know it was even there. Then comes the problem: navigating with it in a place where desires are unfulfilled.

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Best bets tonight at Clev Film Fest: "Marwencol" (so strange, so good) at 7:20; "Headhunter" (nifty Danish thriller) at 9:30 #ciff 6 days ago

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BEST BETS TONIGHT AT CLEFILMFEST:

- Adrift


When: 11:45 a.m. Monday and 9:25 p.m. Tuesday in the Cleveland International Film Festival.

Grade: B

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We've got your complete coverage of the 34th annual Cleveland International Film Festival. For more stories, reviews, previews and other features during the course of the 11-day festival, CLICK HERE

Film Fest Official Site: Showtimes, trailers & more