



LITTLE ROCK FILM FESTIVAL

THURSDAY, MAY 7, 2009

Crossing the Line with local filmmaker James Cotten



The proverbial line could mean a lot of things especially when you see his newest film, [La Linea](#), a film in which the kingpin of a Tijuana drug cartel is hunted down by an assassin played by Ray Liotta. But I think the most important line being crossed is happening behind the scenes to Mr. Cotten himself. Cotten is crossing the line from low budget filmmaker to the world of "Hollywood's callin' him" big-budget directors.

Cotten, born in Ft. Smith Arkansas, has had two features under his belt before tackling this multi-faceted journey through the gritty world of drugs, allegiances, religion and inner demons. Cotten has directed the Horror film feature, *Demon Slayer* (2003) and in 2007 wrote and directed the morality tale/western [Sugar Creek](#). Both films, although low budget speak to Mr. Cotten's resourcefulness and strengths as a screenwriter and storyteller. One trademark that creates a through-line in his films would be his commitment to character development.

WELCOME

The Little Rock Film Festival takes place annually in the middle of the beautiful Arkansas springtime weather. Based in Little Rock's downtown Historic District on the banks of the Arkansas River, the festival showcases the documentaries, features, and short films from around the World, as well as parties, special panels, and youth programs.

LRFF NEWS

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[Shorts and Made in Arkansas](#)

Even [Resurrection County](#), which Cotten wrote and produced, had a great amount of depth in the main characters despite the characteristically one-dimensional genre of "torture porn."



La Linea like his film *Sugar Creek*, operates very much like a morality tale and after subsequent talks with the director, the film contains much more than meets the eye (especially on multiple viewings). Without giving much away, a lot of the characters can be represented by their patron saints. In one frame a Prayer Card with the "Saint of Thieves" is clipped to a kid's bicycle wheel. I always enjoyed films that had a lot of subtext, like Charlie Kaufman scripts or episodes of *the Wire*.



La Linea deserves the recent [news](#) in the Hollywood Reporter that Los Angeles based Maya Entertainment has bought the rights to the film. A release date has not yet been announced but you can catch a glimpse of this cerebral, character driven, crime thriller at the Little Rock Film Fest and get a chance to meet and chat with the director in the Q and A.

The film also stars Esai Morales, Armand Assante, Joe Morton, Bruce Davison, Jason Connery, Michael DeLorenzo, Valerie Cruz, Jordi Vilasuso, Danny Trejo, Kevin Gage and Gary Daniels.

Winners Announced

And the nominees are: Golden Rock Winners Announce...

Opening Night Report: Day 1

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Hero's tale subject of local director's documentar...

LRFF adds two new films to Lineup

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Died Young, Stayed Pretty

Made in China in Little Rock

- ▶ April (9)
- ▶ March (12)
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- ▶ 2008 (36)
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FILM LINKS

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[Little Rock Film Commission](#)

[Arkansas Film Commission](#)

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CONTRIBUTORS

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La Linea screens at the Riverdale #1 theater 7:00 PM on Thursday, May 14th and 9:45 PM, Saturday, May 16th. Also be sure to catch his film Resurrection County which plays in the same theater at 9:30 PM on Thursday, May 14th and 9:30 PM, Friday, May 15th.

POSTED BY LEVI AGEE AT 5:09 PM

LABELS: [JAMES COTTEN](#), [LA LINEA](#), [LOCAL FILMMAKER](#), [RESURRECTION COUNTY](#), [SUGAR CREEK](#)

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