



THE PURITAN POST

| by Hank W. Mardukas |

This Week on Home Video

Widows (2018)

Writer and Director Steve McQueen (*Hunger, Shame, 12 Years a Slave*) teams up with *Gone Girl* writer Gillian Flynn for what I believe may be his best movie yet. This story centers on Veronica, played by Viola Davis, buried in debt left by her late criminal husband, who finds his plans for a five million dollar heist. Veronica recruits the three other widows whose husbands died alongside her own to help her execute the mission. *Widows* marks Steve McQueen's first movie without Michael Fassbender, but the rest of this stellar cast led by Davis picks up the slack including Colin Farrell, Michelle Rodriguez, Jacki Weaver, that one guy from *Taken*, Robert Duvall and *Get Out's* Daniel Kaluuya in the finest work of his career. I highly recommend *Widows*, which I'm shocked has not garnered more awards consideration recently.

This Week on TV

Around the Way (Hulu)

Hulu has an excellent new three part documentary series for Black History Month entitled *Around the Way*, with each episode focusing on a different city, the first episode centering on Atlanta. The series discusses the Black experience in different parts of America through interviews with such guests as Killer Mike, Jermaine Dupri and Stacey Abrams as they discuss Black history and culture in Atlanta. The other two episodes are set to feature Los Angeles and New York.

Director Spotlight: Michael Moore



Birth: 4/23/1954, Flint MI
Notable Works: *Roger & Me, Canadian Bacon, Bowling for Columbine, Sicko, Fahrenheit 9/11, Capitalism: A Love Story, Where to Invade Next*
Fun Fact: The co-founder of the Traverse City Film Festival in Traverse City, Michigan

Which Doc is Better - NETFLIX'S FYRE or HULU'S FYRE FRAUD (2019)?

Both Hulu and Netflix have new documentaries detailing the bizarre, true story of 2017's infamous, failed "luxury music festival", Fyre Festival and its now-incarcerated founder and expert con man, Billy McFarland. Both documentaries lend their own individual and worthwhile perspective on the events that happened in April 2017. But which is the better doc?

Hulu's documentary, *Fyre Fraud* was the first of the two documentaries I watched, which I decided on mainly because I heard that it featured an interview with Billy McFarland, the man behind what turned out to be a massive scale fraud which cost him six years in prison and over twenty six million dollars in retribution. Watching Billy's interview in *Fyre Fraud*, doesn't unfortunately get you a lot of answers. But what it does give is an absolutely fascinating look inside the mind of a undoubtedly cunning salesman, but also a unflappable, salacious con artist. I also particularly enjoyed the way this documentary was able to tie the story of McFarland and Fyre into a larger story about Millennials, social media and the potentially dangerous powers of influence and marketing.

Netflix's documentary, on the other hand, simply titled *Fyre*, is a first hand look at Fyre Festival told by a media group entitled Jerry Media, the same marketing entity that aided Billy McFarland and Fyre in promoting this farce of a festival from the get go. This unique perspective lends a much different voice than Hulu's doc, but also shares some similarities tonally as well. That similarity being, in both documentaries, there were many voices telling McFarland to stop, but he persisted ahead with the charade anyway, despite a totally unrealistic schedule. The first hand accounts from the people working alongside Billy are fascinating, the best of which is probably Andy King, an event producer called in very late in the game to put Fyre together. Fyre also has a fascinating inside look at Billy's appalling lifestyle spending exorbitant money that wasn't his and committing more fraud after Fyre.

I would encourage you to watch both documentaries if you have both the time and the access to both your parents' Netflix account as well as your brother's girlfriend's Hulu account. Together they tell the whole story. Both documentaries provide their own interesting insights on the subject. Hulu's primary draw being their exclusive interview with McFarland himself and Netflix's most intriguing aspect being their inside look to the goings-on of that fateful weekend and the individual interviews with the team who did business for Fyre leading up to it. The differences and similarities in the two docs' voices are fascinating.

If I had to give one the edge, I would probably give it to Netflix's *Fyre* which showed significantly more of the brutal devastation that McFarland deplorably bestowed upon the citizens of the Bahamas who worked weeks of overtime only to not get paid. Their story is the true tragedy of this story, not to mention all of the other employees stateside conned along the way. That said, the *Fyre* filmmakers in many ways are just as guilty as McFarland for propagating this insane scam.