



Reviewing a Movie/CD for Just Focus

With a little help from our friends at Tearaway we've put together a quick guide for how to write reviews for the JF site and given you a couple of examples - so thanks heaps to Erena, Tearaway's editor, and to Nancy, whose writing is used as an example below.



Movies

1. To be relevant to the JF site, the movie either should have some global issue theme/s (rather than just be the next Lindsay Lohan no-brainer!);
So, for example,
 - **The Constant Gardener** - set in Africa around pharmaceutical drug trials and AIDS
 - **The Lord of War** - Drama on the illegal arms trade
 - **Outfoxed** - Exploring media manipulation and corporate power.

or be made/set in a developing country, e.g.

- **Born into Brothels** (Indian doco: kids growing up in Calcutta's brothels)
- **In My Country** (Drama: journalists covering post-Apartheid stories in South Africa)
- **Re-Frame** (doco: attitudes to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict)

Email info@justfocus.org.nz for a list of the movies in our library, or borrow one from your local store and get writing!

2. Be specific. If you're going to critique something say WHY and use quotes, track references. You need to justify and back up statements using examples /citing references (other reviews, articles on other sites and so on...)
3. About 150-200 words is probably enough.
4. Give a star rating out of five.
5. Include additional details to support review (i.e. release dates, director/producer (and what they've made before, if it's relevant), censor ratings... blah blah blah)

For examples of Movie reviews, have a look at: <http://www.flicks.co.nz/>



1. Likewise it'd be good to keep it to music that has a global flavour - so music as political commentary, world music connections, gender stories, hip hop from around the world, raging against the machine - that kinda thing...

Here's an example to help ya get the idea...

VARIOUS ARTISTS: THE GREEN ROOM 05: WHANAU

The Green Room series aims to inspire global unity, environmental awareness and the promotion of positive change. This album is about so much more than the music. Dedicated to the memory of Rod Donald, this homegrown compilation album takes the listener on a mellow roller coaster ride through the native bushes of the New Zealand music industry.

As soon as the album starts, you get a feeling of what it's all about with a message from Deva Mahal herself: "This song is a really serious song. It's inspired by watching the news and seeing things that really disturbed me. There's a lot of messed up shit happening all around the world."

The album features other kiwi artists the likes of House of Shem, Black Seeds and Recloose, featuring the velvet-voiced Joe Dukie.

My advice? Buy this album (or at least copy it off your favourite hippy friend). It's definitely one for the collection.

- by NANCY HERSELF, TEARAWAY, JUNE 2006

