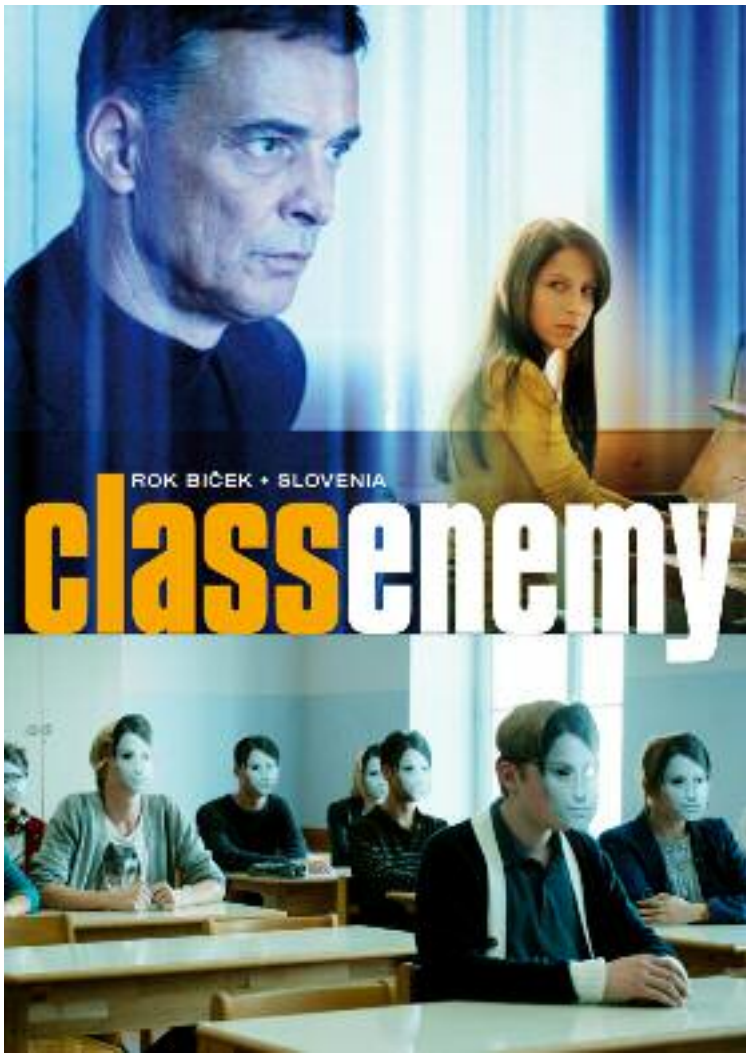


'Class Enemy'

By Sophie Braccini



The International Film Showcase brings the Slovenian movie "Class Enemy," the first feature film of young director Rok Biček, to the Orinda Theatre for a one-week engagement. This enthralling drama, set in a high school, casts a penetrating eye on the generation gap between young rebellious teens and their strict professor. An intense atmosphere, like a thunderstorm minutes from breaking, adds to the strength of

Image provided this brilliant psychological drama.

A group of friendly high school students is suddenly faced with more discipline when a new and demanding head teacher comes to their class. This German teacher quickly focuses all the youths' criticisms, and the students begin to rebel. When a young female student commits suicide, her classmates blame the teacher for what happened. The accusations begin to spiral. Other teachers are helpless and the students are left facing their own

violent contradictions. The film reveals the share of responsibility that each group had in the drama.

The screenplay was written by Biček, Nejc Gazvoda and Janez Lapajne and is based on an event that happened in Biček's high school when he was a student. Although the topic is very personal, the director manages to touch on a universal theme of the generation gap and the clash that happens when two groups that have to live together have very different values. The movie questions the validity of overindulging a generation of spoiled children, wannabe rebels, that educational systems often have difficulty handling. The movie does not condemn the youths' desire to change things, but reveals that those who protest most may exhibit the exact behaviors they so loudly condemn.

The movie won the "Critics' Week" award at the Venice Film Festival for good reason. First, the actors are remarkable. The teacher is played by Igor Samobor, who is one of the most acclaimed actors in Slovenia. In an interview with CineEuropa, director Biček said that the young actors and Samobor never met before filming. "They met on the first day of filming," said Biček. "The reason I did this was to prevent the young actors from having a close relationship with Igor, since it might subconsciously influence their performance in the film." The young actors have an honesty and boldness that makes the movie so real and captivating, as well as very moving.

"Class Enemy" is a subtle movie, interesting and worth discovering. It will play at the Orinda Theatre for one week, starting Sept. 4.

Specialties of the House: The Hunt for Happy Hour

By A.K. Carroll

Welcome to the Hunt for Happy Hour, a new series in which we seek to bring you the freshest and finest when it comes to discounted beverages and premium small bites in the Lamorinda area. This week we visit Rancho Cantina, a neighborhood watering hole with a bit of class and lot of flavor.

After a long day on the ranch, in the office, or at home corralling the kids, every one could use a little time at the neighborhood cantina. The folks at Rancho are armed and ready to fix you up and send you off refreshed, relaxed, and ready for the evening. Running from 3 to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, Happy Hour is available at the reclaimed wood and hand-tiled bar, in the rustic dining room, or out on the spacious patio where you can hide under big umbrellas or bask in the afternoon sun.

Discounted drinks include refreshingly simple house margaritas made with Lunaazul blanco tequila, fresh-squeezed lime, Cointreau and agave nectar; prima margaritas kicked up a notch with Leyenda Del Milagro reposado and Gran Gala liqueur and tall drafts of Modelo beer. The happy hour repository is a bit limited, but the full drink menu leaves little to be desired, except perhaps for the off-menu mezcal margarita that will set me straight for the rest of my night.

There's plenty to tempt your taste buds where noshes and nibbles are concerned. From crispy chips and salsa to generously composed ceviche featuring the fresh-caught fish of the day, the full array of antojitos (small plates) ring up at a 25 percent discount. You can't go wrong with good guacamole, and Rancho's is some of the best, made fresh throughout the day with big chunks of avocado and a solid dose of crushed garlic and minced red onion. Served alongside salsa roja and salsa verde, it's the ultimate in chips and dip. Or you might opt for the bite-sized pardon peppers, charred to crispy perfection and served with a chipotle crema that has just enough kick to get you licking your fingers (and possibly your plate).

You might come in for a quick one, but don't be surprised if you stay

longer. Between the fresh and friendly waitstaff, accommodating bartenders, and Lamorinda locals, you're almost certain to find someone who's game for a good conversation. It's worth taking an afternoon detour to mosey on up and dust off the day at Rancho Cantina.

When: 3-5 pm, Monday-Friday
Where: 3616 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette
Drinks: \$4 Modelo, \$7 House Margarita, \$10 Prima Margarita
Food: \$3-8 Antojitos (small plates)
Recommended: Smokey Mezcal Margarita and Grilled Padron Peppers



Smokey margarita Photos A.K. Carroll



Rockfish ceviche



Rockfish ceviche and grilled pardon peppers



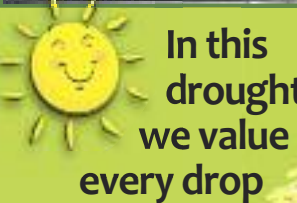
Grilled pardon peppers

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