

# Film Festivals News

Source: <http://www.filmfestivalsnews.com/>

## Awarded director's thoughts on Fiction

Fiction in the dictionary is defined as: "that which is untrue. A lie." In everyday use, fiction is closely related to "dreams", again, something not to be taken too seriously, something not real. Dramatically, however, fiction carries more weight. Our jobs as dramatists is to make truth, to extract and distill Truth out of Fiction. Fiction is a language which speaks directly to the unconscious. Fiction is indirect,



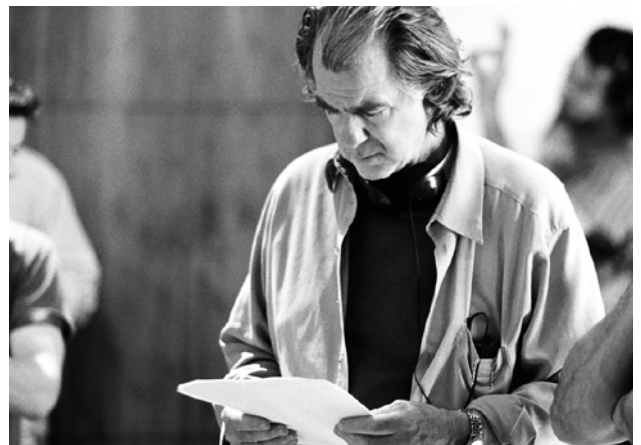
enigmatic. It presents itself symbolically and metaphorically. Fiction is the Messenger of Truth. In Drama, Truth and Fiction are not mutually exclusive. Are Grimm's Fairy Tales fiction? Are they also true? Fiction, then, is interpretive truth—a way of tricking us into the discovery of ourselves.

This award is a high compliment to me. LIMINAL is a tale about the inner wars we wage everyday inside ourselves. It is a journey into the realm where murder is an act of freedom, not a crime. As Jung said: "You have to know who to kill."

Realistically, this message would horrify—yet on the wings of Fiction, it becomes an insight and an acknowledgement of our daily duty to survive the ever-present forces of destruction. Fiction is the only way our selves can accept what in reality we would deny.

I am proudest of this award. Thank you Festival De Cine De Granada and Annual Program Without Frontiers for realizing the power of fiction and for connecting that power with my film.

Stephen Keep Mills, Writer/Director LIMINAL



# Film Festivals News

Source: [http://www.whatson.uk.com/new\\_design/index.php?cat=film](http://www.whatson.uk.com/new_design/index.php?cat=film)

## Film On: Liminal

Director Stephen Keep Mills

Cast: Alejandra Gollas, Tonya Cornelisse

**L**iminal refers to a transitional period of beginning or change. Presented at the London Lesbian and Gay Film Festival on the 25th March the film addresses the body, womanhood and sexuality in ways that are often un-discussed. The film plays with the ground between self and other, never revealing whether they are lovers or just one woman feudally fighting her inner self. Filmed entirely in black and white 35mm stock and entering immediately onto the pacing of Joy and Ina moving erratically in and out of shot, focus and light; over and under exposing the shot. This is a non-erotic, intelligent, peepshow. **RC**



# Film Festivals News

Source: <http://www.redmillcny.com>

## “Liminal” By Stephen Keep Mills (USA)

The film guide says, “Ina and Joy are naked and locked in a battle of elimination. Ina must reverse the power to survive. Are they lovers or is Joy the “killer within”?”



This is a fictitious, experimental film. I must first remark on how it was shot and the lighting...brilliant and perfect. My other remarks are about the acting...excellent. The writing... spectacular. The way the camera moves creates friction, drama, and contrast. A beautiful film.

After you watch you will be wondering a million different things. It is a great film to watch with someone else to discuss. It is a short film, only 14 minutes. Don't worry if you don't understand everything. Just say what you think because you might be right.

Yes, both women are naked. It seems that is the only way my male friends will see any films at the festival. Pathetic, seriously guys, but if gets you to participate and see some foreign films, cool. They actually have films for mature audiences only if that is your thing.

I recommend you watch a few other Stephen Keep Mills if this sparks your interest. He has been here several times and is a great American actor, writer, director, and executive producer. I really enjoyed discussing several things with him and I have a copy of the DVD for everyone who would like to watch it.



# Film Festivals News

Source: <http://www.mamut.net/filmfestivals/newsdet1.htm>

## LIMINAL

### by **STEPHEN KEEP MILLS** - **Best Actress: Tonya Cornelisse**

First of all let me tell you how very happy and honored I am for LIMINAL to have been selected into the Chicago Short Film Festival. It's an even greater honor and delight that Tonya Cornelisse has been recognized for Actress Performance.

Tonya is fearless and from the moment she walked in to the auditions I felt I was confronting a special creative power, an actor who would take on the story intuitively and with an incredibly truthful dramatic flair.

The story was originally a conflict between a man and a woman, but because of Tonya's haunting and dominating presence, I asked her at the final callbacks to read the man's role instead. She did and changed the story from a domestic encounter to an interior, psychological struggle she became the other woman's antagonist, her shadow, the force inside whose purpose was to destroy. Much more interesting to me than the familiar fight between the sexes was this newborn fight within.



I haven't had the experience where an actor changed my mind like that. She brought surprise and complete commitment. We rehearsed 50 hours before we brought in the camera.

The element of nudity was new to each of us and I cannot begin to express my gratitude for her trust and her willingness to go forth into this experiment with her Muse always on fire.

I thank the jury and the festival for seeing in Tonya Cornelisse's work the same diamond whose gleam first caught my eye.

Stephen Keep Mills  
Director, Writer, Executive Producer



# Film Festivals News

Source: <http://www.mamut.net/shortfilmfestivals1/newsdet1.htm>

## LIMINAL

### by STEPHEN KEEP MILLS - Best Photography Award

This is a wonderful honor, for Photography, that you have given LIMINAL's cinematographer Michael Alba.

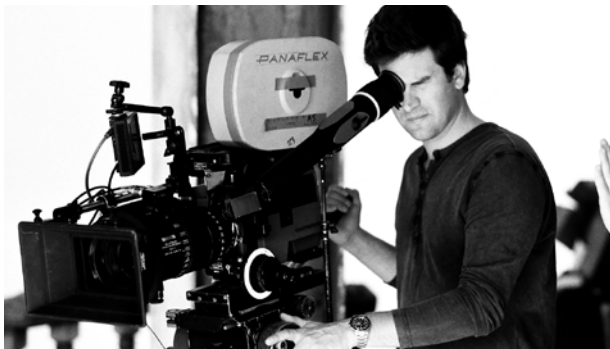
This is the third film Mike and I have worked on. The first short, *A Cigar at the Beach*, screened in 164 festivals in 31 countries and won 45 awards, half of them for cinematography. The second, *Gift for Reba*, was a finalist film for *On The Lot*, the Steven Spielberg reality TV show.

LIMINAL is a bit more controversial with the nudity and the intensity and has been selected now into 34 festivals, won 9 awards-and this is the first one for Photography, so Mike is finally and deservedly on the scoreboard.



Tonya Cornelisse plays JOY in LIMINAL by Stephen Keep Mills. Photo by Michael Alba

I'm nearly 62 and this is my 4th film since I began making them in 2003. My experience is rooted in theatre as an actor, playwright, and stage director. I emphasize performance and I know what makes a scene work. In the film world, I'm still early in the process of learning what the camera can do, which lenses to use, and how to shoot with editing in mind. Mike is 28 and knows the tech-world cold, but is curious about what to do with actors and how to interpret a scene as opposed to merely capturing images. I think we inspire and teach each other. We collaborate.



I value his expertise and encourage his input completely. He's got a great eye for the final look and I made sure he came to the color correction sessions in Post. Here we ended up with very contrasted blacks and whites, almost extreme, but just the right look for the film which takes place below the surface of civilization and needed a surrealistic flair. His camera-work also captures the dizzying violence of both warring characters.

The predominant use of hand-held and steady cam shots pulls the audience right into this fight to the finish-as if we are experiencing the story "real time" instead of watching it acted out on a distant screen.

Films are made for the psychic digestion of the audience-to quicken their capacities for understanding themselves. First there must be story and then the story must be told. I feel lucky to have Mike's help in the telling and lucky, too, to have such great opportunities provided by all the festivals in Annual Program Without Frontiers. I'm grateful to the Short Film Festival of Los Angeles for selecting this work and for honoring the cinematographic talents of Michael Alba.

Stephen Keep Mills, Writer/Director

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