Rerelease of Ken Russell's 'The Devils'

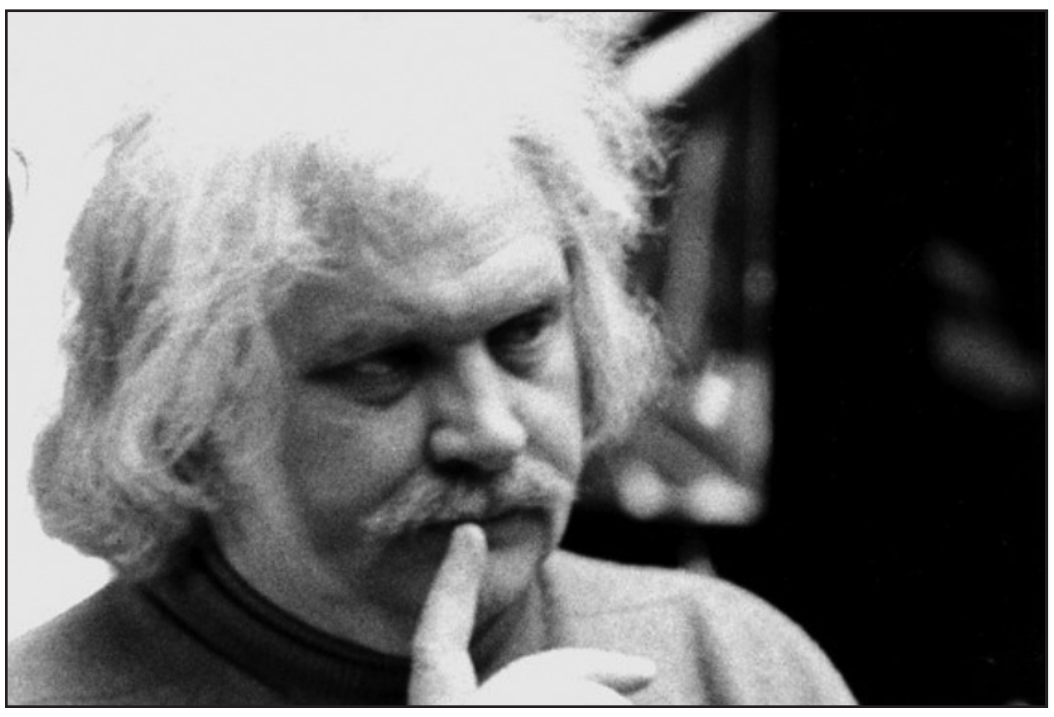

PHOTO |BUDCAT14/ROSS

British film director Ken Russell.

By Valentina Toro
Managing Editor

For more than half a century, audiences have not been able to see Ken Russell's "The Devils" the way he intended. That is finally about to change.

Released in 1971, "The Devils" quickly became one of the most controversial films of its time.

Its combination of religion, sexuality, violence and political corruption was enough to make censors uncomfortable, leading to scenes being cut and different versions of the film circulating for decades. Now, 55 years later, a definitive restoration is finally bringing Russell's vision back to theaters.

It should not have taken this long.

The new 4K restoration was created from the original camera negative and follows an edit Russell constructed in 2004 with editor Michael Bradsell.

After premiering at the Cannes Film Festival earlier this year, the restored film will begin a U.S. theatrical release Oct. 16.

The restoration is important not simply because "The Devils" is controversial, but because audiences should be allowed to experience art before deciding for themselves what they think of it.

Starring Oliver Reed and Vanessa Redgrave, the film follows the persecution of a 17th-century priest accused of witchcraft and explores the relationship between religious authority and political power.

Russell did not approach those subjects subtly. The film contains disturbing religious and sexual imagery that helped create its reputation and resulted in some of its most controversial material being removed.

That imagery will not appeal to everyone. It is not supposed to.

There is a difference between disliking a work of art and preventing people from experiencing it in the form its artist created.

Viewers should be able to watch a film, feel uncomfortable with it, criticize it or even hate it. What becomes troubling is when someone else makes that decision for them.

That is what makes the return of "The Devils" more interesting than the average restoration of a decades-old movie.

Restoring a film usually means improving damaged images and sound or preserving something that might otherwise disappear.

In this case, restoration also means returning something to the film that censorship took away.

It also raises the question of how many works have been judged not entirely by what their creators made, but by what audiences were eventually allowed to see.

Standards change; material considered unacceptable in 1971 may be viewed differently in 2026, but the point is not that modern audiences will suddenly find everything in "The Devils" acceptable. Some probably will not.

The point is that they now have the opportunity to make that judgment themselves.

There is also something fitting about the film returning to theaters rather than simply appearing quietly on a streaming service.

Russell created something visually excessive and deliberately confrontational.

Derek Jarman's production design, the cinematography and the performances were created for a screen large enough that audiences could not easily look away.

"The Devils" may still shock people 55 years later.

It may offend them, confuse them or make them question why anyone fought so hard to restore it.

But controversial art does not need to become comfortable with age to deserve preservation.

Russell died in 2011 without seeing his definitive version receive a public theatrical release. Audiences are finally getting that chance. They should have had it decades ago.

Editor-in-Chief explores the 'Big E'

By Brianna Wallen
Editor-in-Chief

Fall does not officially feel like fall to me until I have visited the "Big E." The smell of fried food, the sound of carnival rides and seeing the animals have become part of my favorite fall tradition.

This year, I got to share that tradition with my one-year-old cousin, Mason, on his first trip to the fair.

On Sept. 30, my family and I made our way to the fair, and I was ready to eat. Well, as ready as someone with a small appetite can be.

The night before, I spent time scrolling through TikTok and saving videos of all the food I wanted to try. I had a full food itinerary planned out, and was ready to head to each truck

My first stop had to be the deep-fried birria taco from the "Deep Fried Tacos" truck.

I love birria tacos, so I already knew this was going to be one of my favorites. And let me just say, it did not disappoint. It was a 15 out of 10.

It was like eating a birria burrito, with a crunchy and crisp tortilla. The taco was so good that I genuinely regret not going back for another one to take home.

Out of everything I ate that day, this is the one I am still thinking about.

After that, I needed something to drink, so of course, lemonade was the answer. I got the strawberry mango flavor with shark gummies, and it was exactly what I needed to wash everything down.

I also tried a few bites of a loaded baked potato with chili and cheese. It was delicious, but I had to save room for the other things on my list. I rate it 7/10

In between eating, I made sure to enjoy some of the rides.

I went on the carousel and the teacups, which were both fun, although I am not sure my stomach appreciated the teacups after all that food.

While were walking, the parade came around the corner. A line of ponies, marching band, and floats came with high energy.

I ended up collecting more than 15 beaded necklaces after the floats started throwing them into the crowd.

Once it got dark and a little chilly out, we decided to visit the inside attractions. Farm-A-Rama, was one of my favorite spots, as we took pictures and got to see and pet some of the animals.

The baby chicks were easily one of my favorites. They were so cute and tiny that I probably could have stayed there much longer. I also loved seeing the horses up close.

Before leaving, I had one more important stop to make: dessert.

As a cookie butter lover, I could not leave without trying the Biscoff spin on fried dough.

It was topped with cookie butter drizzle and Biscoff cookie crumbles, so basically, it was made for me. The warm fried dough, sweet cookie butter and crunchy Biscoff pieces were the perfect combination and the perfect way to end my night.

Now, if only I could get that birria taco again.



PHOTOS | BRIANNA WALLEN

The ferris wheel at the 'Big E' on Sept. 30.



Journalism major Brianna Wallen, a senior, and family at the 'Big E' on Sept. 30.

'Last Window' shares good message

By Noah Nunez
General Reporter

My game data finishes saving, and I check the time difference between the last save and now.

From 8:20 p.m.–10 p.m., I played through the last chapter of "Last Window: The Secret of Cape West," and with the million thoughts that rushed through my head as I reflected on the game, I stopped for a second.

I sat there with my finger hovering over my mouse, just like it had done for the past hour and 40 minutes, and I thought about what had just happened.

As a sequel to the 2007 "Hotel Dusk: Room 215," "Last Window" could easily have been the same game with a new cast in a new setting with a few references to the first game thrown in.

Instead, "Last Window" takes the doomed path it was set on and asks: how do you send a character into the unknown without it feeling sad?

Sending the protagonist, Kyle Hyde, into an unknown limbo, leaving us with only the knowledge that he has changed for the better.

Unlike the first game, where his help with the guest at Hotel Dusk felt more accidental than compassionate, Kyle sees his fellow tenants of Cape West suffering and wants to help, even if it just happens to serve his quest.

Kyle is no longer tearing out the truth from people who have made mistakes; he is helping them move on from their past and find a better path.

Each character carries mistakes or accidents from months, years or even decades ago, and they weigh on their minds and control their every action.

They all want someone to talk to, someone to help them move past this pain that sits inside them like a rock tied to a fish; no matter how hard they flail, they cannot escape the pull.

But despite this, they are still able to move on; able to find something to live for in life, another reason to get back up.

Each conversation feels as though you are watching two people talk, not two puppets mouthing symbols back and forth, making these conversations even stronger.

But these issues are never solved with a happy ending, rather sending the character off into a better spot but still leaving the onus of growth on them. Kyle is just here to help.

It has been 16 years since "Last Window" was released, and I do not think we will ever see Kyle Hyde again.

But despite that, I think Kyle will be just fine.

When thinking about what you have done, all the mistakes that piled up throughout life, the pain you feel inside each day, it can begin to feel as though this is how the rest of your life is going to be.

"Last Window" shows that this isn't true. No matter how long it takes, no matter who the cause of this pain is, it will get better.

For the rest of this story, visit thesouthernnews.org

SOUTHERN NEWS

Advisers: Cindy Simoneau, Jodie Gil

Contact information:
Email: scsu.southernct.news@gmail.com
Newsroom Phone: 203-392-6928
Fax: 203-392-6927

Mailing Address:
Southern Connecticut State University
Adanti Student Center Room 222
501 Crescent Street
New Haven, CT 06515

Issues printed by: Valley Publishing, Derby, CT
Follow us on Twitter: @Southern_News
Like us on Facebook: facebook.com/thesouthernnews
Visit us online: TheSouthernNews.org
Print edition online: OurSchoolNewspaper.com/Southern

Brianna Wallen — Editor-in-Chief
Valentina Toro — Managing Editor

Section Editors
Vacancy — News Editor
Mackenzie Byerlee — Features Editor
Vacancy — Sports Editor
Lily Rand — Photo Editor
Mateusz Gazdzicki — Photographer
William Gagne' — Photographer

Staff Reporters
Noah Nunez — General Reporter
Vacancy — Sports Writer
Vacancy — News Writer

Copy Desk
Mackenzie Byerlee — Vacancy

Southern News welcomes any and all comments and suggestions. If we make a mistake, please contact us and we will publish a correction or clarification in the next issue.

We are the student newspaper of Southern Connecticut State University, and we welcome the writing of all Southern students and faculty.

To submit a piece, email it to scsu.southern.news@gmail.com, or stop by the Southern News office on the second floor of the Student Center, Room 225. Electronic submissions are preferred.

Visit www.TheSouthernNews.org for more.

WE'RE HIRING!

Become a staff member for student campus media and publications.



SOUTHERN NEWS VACANCIES:
- Sports Editor
- News Writer
- Sports Writer
- Copy Editor

CRESCENT MAGAZINE VACANCIES:
- Copy Editor
- Assistant Layout Editor

Contact simoneauc1@southernct.edu or torov1@southernct.edu to schedule an interview or for more details.