

Keeping it real

From the surface of the moon to a Kawasaki campaign trail, Hot Docs celebrates reality moviemaking

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GEOFF PEVERE
MOVIE CRITIC

Last Call at the Gladstone Hotel: A terrifically astute, conscientious and engaged work, Derreck Roemer and Neil Graham's movie about the five-year struggle to gentrify the formerly dilapidated Parkdale landmark (the city's oldest operating hotel) catches Toronto in the thick of its transitional awkwardness. Trapped between commerce and community, the hotel's various developers and owners find themselves constantly confronted by the establishment's status as a last-chance home for the otherwise homeless. As social history it's fascinating, and as a comment on hipster T-dot – especially when the art crowd collides with the regulars – it's painfully incisive. (*April 22, 6:30 p.m., Bloor; April 28, 4:15 p.m., Bloor.*)