

The World Premiere of ***Once My Mother at the Adelaide Film Festival*** was a moving event for both audiences and producers alike. A full house, a standing ovation for the filmmakers, not a dry eye in the house, in fact, I missed the last stanzas of Cezary Skubizewski's fabulous music because so many people around me were rustling in their handbags for handkerchiefs, asking their partners for their hankies and generally trying to deal with massive emotion and I won't pretend I was immune myself! Just better prepared.

It is a really beautiful film about mothers and daughters. There are the specifics about Sophia's particularly resilient mother, but actually like all great art, the details of *Once My Mother* make you think about your own mother/daughter relationship. And like all primal relationships, the mother/daughter one is usually complex, challenging and rewarding all at the same time... I'm grateful to the film for opening the door to reconsidering it.

But what a top night. After the film, there was an after party at **Little Miss Miami**, one of those terrific Adelaide bars that Sydney just doesn't have. Charming wait staff, particularly Ben on the bar who were really helpful as we all arrived at once, direct from the cinema, and a great atmosphere, fun and relaxed but beautifully under control, so everybody had a great time.

The wines by **Fox Creek Vineyard** were particularly good, especially the unwooded chardonnay, and I'm a hardened red wine drinker, so it must have been terrific. The guests at the party included **Gosia Hill, the Honorary Consul for the Republic of Poland**, who gave a short, succinct and interesting speech when introducing the film earlier in the evening. I love it when people can illuminate history in such a way that you want to know more, but feel that you have enough grasp on what did happen that you won't make a fool of yourself should you run into someone who knows more. I feel that way about the invasion of Poland, but thanks to Sophia's film and Gosia's speech, know that I am better informed than I used to be and it didn't hurt a bit!

David Donaldson, the first director ever of the Sydney Film Festival was there as well, astounding everybody with his perfect recall of just about every Australian film going back to the early seventies. He knew all of Sophia's previous work, and Rod's, and is both erudite and charming in equal measure. Editor Denise Haslem, like me another enthusiastic imbiber of the Fox Creek Wines, Liz Stevens from Screen Australia, Robert Ayliffe, Sophia's brother Roman and lots of Sophia's Adelaide friends came along which made for good conversation. We had fun!

Dear Rod and Sophia,

Please make another film soon.

Best wishes,

Susan Bromley, Adelaide