

PHD.ABUZZ

Where something is always abuzz.

PHD ABIS Holiday Party: A Big Success

Everyone seemed to enjoy the holiday party, there was quite an amazing turn out. While at the party, I talked with some clients and their families and found it was a fantastic opportunity to get to know our peers a little better, making the event that much more enjoyable. From those that I talked to, it seemed that everyone was really enjoying the PHD ABIS Holiday Party.

The choir's performance was very good; I especially enjoyed it when they got everyone in the hall singing along with the carols. Even though there was a worrisome moment when somebody fell up on the stage, they got back up and started to sing again. I felt like they showed a great deal of strength to get back up and continue to show their holiday spirit.

The drama production was very interesting. The group continues to put a new production together each year. This year, they decided for one of their productions to do a humorous silent film set in the PHD ABIS Head Office about criminals sneaking around.

The silent film was called "The Robbery" and the theme was making a joke about the staff of PHD ABIS. One of the funniest moments in the film was when the thief stole from a sleeping employee.

The second production was called "The PHDABIssauga Bunch" and was a parody of "The Brady Bunch". It showed the togetherness and cohesion that we feel in PHD ABIS. That is what PHD ABIS is really about.

~~ Jennifer Moqre



Upcoming Events (Mississauga)

- * Jan. 31 – Art Party
Mississauga Office – 176 Robert Speck
- * Feb. 21 – PHD ABIS Night Out
Jack Astor's – 219 Rathburn

Upcoming Events (Orangeville)

- * Feb. 3 – 4th Annual Ice Fishing
Island Lake Conservation
- Feb. 13 – Valentines Social
Central West – 695 Riddell Rd.
- Feb. 23 – PHD ABIS Night Out
Boston Pizza – 5 Buena Dr.

Mi Casa Loma, Su Casa Loma

PHD ABIS recently went on a trip to the Casa Loma in Toronto. It is located at One Austin Terrace, near the corner of Davenport and Spadina.

During this event we learned a lot about the history of Toronto. They informed us that they began to build the castle in 1911 and completed it in 1914. In 1937, it was decided that Casa Loma would become a Museum.

It was interesting to tour around Casa Loma because you were able to see how they used to live and what it was like back then. The castle itself was very majestic. It was like stepping back in time to a period of European elegance and splendour.

Casa Loma used to be home to the Canadian financier, Sir Henry Pellatt. The interior includes countless decorated suites, secret passages, an 800-foot long tunnel, towers, stables, and a beautiful 5-acre estate garden. The garden is open from May through October.

We found the trip to Casa Loma very informative and interesting; hopefully we will have the opportunity to be able to go again. It is easy to see how they spent 3.5 million dollars on this castle.

Overall, it is worth the drive and money to make a trip to Casa Loma. It is really a great place to go and learn more about our city.

~Jennifer Moore~



One of the best things about this time of year is the promise of hope.

... We are able to renew our hope for peace on earth,

for love and kindness.

If this year has made you weary, may the JOY of the season infuse your

soul with peace, your mind with inspiration and your life with hope.

Happy Holidays

~Photography and Message from Katharine Stapley

The Moffitt Critique Corner - "Gone Girl"

This David Fincher picture has a title with dual meaning. "Gone Girl" is a story of an obviously missing girl (physically 'gone'), but also mentally 'gone' as well.

For the longest time we are led to believe that her husband, played by Ben Affleck, is the one responsible for the disappearance. A patsy in his own way; we see that the wife, Rosamund Pyke, is solely responsible for her own 'disappearance'.

Fincher pictures run along the same themes; very talented and very good looking people with one major flaw. "Fight Club" and "The Social Network" both ran along the same theme as well.

"Gone Girl" is filled with ambiguity. Why wouldn't a woman take revenge on her two-timing husband?

The acting is superb, with the exception of Ben Affleck (a better director than actor, a Hollywood rarity). Fincher has a solid knowledge and application of filmmaking, with excellent use of music, sound, cinematography and editing (the sign of good editing is not noticing it). He also uses sound cuts effectively. The sound is cut 10 to 15 seconds before picture, which is a technique used by Walter Murch, the author of the book "In the Blink of an Eye". The theory behind it is that we physiologically blink when an edit occurs.



Nick Dunne: *[Opening lines]* When I think of my wife, I always think of the back of her head. I picture cracking her lovely skull, unspooling her brain, trying to get answers. The primal questions of a marriage: What are you thinking? How are you feeling? What have we done to each other?

The Moffitt Critique Corner - "Fury"

Underneath it all, Fury was a simple war movie. But I ask you, are any war movies that simple? The answer to that question would be 'NO'! Fury was about what you were fighting for, as well as what you have done.

Fury was a Brad Pitt vehicle, but in my opinion, Shia LaBeouf stole the show. This movie was about what war will do to you, how it changes you and turns you into something that you find hard to comprehend.

A devout Christian, the young tank observer goes against his religion to kill another human being. In a poignant moment he learns he must kill, or be killed. He decides, like most of us, that he must kill in order to save himself. In this moment, he is changed forever. War will do that to you, it'll change you into something you never thought possible. Michael Herr once said; "It makes even a devout pacifist into a killer."

All in all, Fury was a well-made film. Great story, well-acted (although Brad Pitt is somewhat wasted). It was well shot and cut. It was sort of like war, I suppose: Nothing wasted, except human lives. I wonder what the veterans thought?!

~~Bruce Moffitt



Wardaddy - "I started this war killing Germans in Africa. Then France. Then Belgium. Now I'm killing Germans in Germany. It will end, soon. But before it does, a lot more people gotta die."

Joke of the Month: Two fish are sitting in a tank. One looks at the other and says, "Do you know how to drive this thing?"