

## The Edge of Dreaming & Monsters Are My Picks of EIFF 2010

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By [Dylan Matthew](#) - Posted on 02 July 2010

*The Edge of Dreaming* feels like a film that has crossed some kind of a line touching on a marginally taboo subject in that privately, most people do think about these kinds of experiences, perhaps discussing them with close friends but this film might be helping to slowly crowbar the lid off the subject in a public way. I wouldn't be surprised if it goes onto greater success beyond Edinburgh triggering an avalanche of similarly themed films and heated debates. It certainly provoked a lot of post film discussion by those that saw it and the demand for extra screenings shows there's a serious thirst for this kind of material.

The film's all the more remarkable for the fact that Hardie confesses to not being a regular or vivid dreamer and certainly not one given to superstitious thinking or dabbling in the current trend of new age philosophies which many writers and artists are nowadays exploring, trying to give their ideas credence by tying them to recent discoveries in quantum physics. Hence a multi million dollar self help industry in how the mind manipulates matter through the 'laws of attraction' and 'manifesting' - popular but still controversial subjects that claim to understand and exploit a profound connection between the workings of the inner mind and external waking reality.

Ironically Hardie's quest to understand her own experience aligns her more with these ideas as she dabbles in what some might call witchcraft when hiring a shamanic healer in an attempt to reverse her body's failing health. She also eventually concludes after conversations with various scientists that yes, there is a connection between the mind, the body and external reality. So maybe the Force really is with us after all. But what the full extent of it is and what its full nature is isn't explored here in any detail but I feel it's perhaps a crack in the dam wall that many more film makers may try to exploit, emboldened by this first step.

It was also the more remarkable for the fact that, myself included, most people I know and meet have admitted to experiencing at least occasionally, profound levels of mysterious synchronicity in their lives or dreams that appear to come true. Therefore to watch *The Edge of Dreaming* explore a subject I feel already quite open to, only to discover its creator is thoroughly sceptical made me feel frustrated and fascinated in equal measure.

It's a cinematic film. *The Edge of Dreaming* is not concerned with production values (although it does employ impressive animation by artist Cameron Duguid and a wonderful score by local composer Jim Sutherland), but it does manage to be very atmospheric and on a handful of occasions felt like it had an almost Blair Witchy sense of the horror genre thrown in with its video diaries and grainy slow mo solarised dream reconstructions. It may not be everyone's cup of tea but it certainly leaves an imprint on the psyche after watching as it forces us to think about our own inner lives.

- [Dylan Matthew's blog](#)

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