



TUESDAY MAY 3, 2011

Andy Garcia • Juliana Margulies • Steven Strait • Ezra Miller

City Island



Truth is Stranger Than Family

## “CITY ISLAND”

(USA 2009)

directed by Raymond De Felitta

Produced by Zachary Matz

Reviewed by Linde Carlson – The Ventura Breeze

May is a very special month for The Ventura Film Society, with the filmmakers of both the May 3<sup>rd</sup> and May 17<sup>th</sup> films set to attend. Which brings me to **CITY ISLAND**, the Ventura Film Society's offering on Tuesday May 3. With hundreds of projects reviewed by screeners on a daily basis, Bravo to Writer/Director Raymond De Felitta and Producer Zachary Matz, the filmmakers behind City Island, who will both be attending the City Island screening and answering questions about their heartfelt and soulful independent feature.

Theirs is no small accomplishment - getting their movie so widely distributed in today's highly complex & competitive distribution marketplace, especially since each member of the Rizzo family defines dysfunctionality in the truest sense of the word, at least this side of the Bronx. What is an Italian family without drama, right? In this off-beat comedy, the Rizzo's might get along a lot better if only they could tell each other the truth. Vince Rizzo, played by Andy Garcia, is the worst offender. A corrections officer by day and wannabe actor by night, Vince won't even admit that poker night is in fact acting class. How's he ever going to explain about his illegitimate son? His daughter (Dominik Garcia-Lorido) works as a stripper when she's supposed to be in college. His teenage son ( Ezra Miller ) has a secret sexual fetish that involves a 24-hour webcam and the family's 300-pound neighbor. Vince's wife Joyce (Juliana Margulies) is the family's rock, but it's been a year since she enjoyed intimacy with her husband, and it's no surprise she thinks poker night spells A-F-F-A-I-R. When furloughed prisoner Tony (Steven Strait) enters the Rizzos' lives, Joyce begins to suspect that the handsome young man isn't who Vince says he is. City Island is a funny, touching and smart family tale about the secrets of the past catching up with the lies of the present, and accepting that nobody's perfect - least of all your loved ones. Hilariously dysfunctional. My Critic's Choice: A must see! So sit back and enjoy, **CITY ISLAND**.