

## Press | Reviews

Extracts of reviews of the Best v Best DVD Vol. 1 which features Who Killed Brown Owl

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Scriptwriter, January 2006 - Steve Brookes

"Who Killed Brown Owl - joint winner of Best Short Film at last year's Edinburgh International Film Festival - is a unique and oddly compelling film that combines experimental narrative with elements of classic English Murder-Mystery. It's a treat for the eyes with fluid cinematography that follows the carefully choreographed action of a summer's day in the park - sun-bathers, a rabbit in a boat, a tortoise on a sleeping girl, a baby in the bulrushes and a bicycle accident - all in a single sequence shot worthy of Robert Altman. The directors, Christine Molloy and Joe Lawlor, make clever use of a surprisingly tense Vaughan Williams score that offers the pleasure of the composer's retropastoral sound while putting an ironic distance on all things cosy and English. The picture of Brown Owl, lying face down with an axe embedded in her back and surrounded by a group of solemn-faced girl-scouts, is one of the more memorable images in recent British cinema."

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Times Knowledge, December 2005

"..the breadth of tone is astonishing. As is the verve and sophistication of films such as Who Killed Brown Owl, which describes - and then punctures - scenes of sun-dappled recreation in a London park. Shot in one fluid, ten-minute take, Christine Molloy and Joe Lawlor's beautifully subversive curio is the best of this splendid clump of short and curlies."

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Time Out, November 2005 - Ben Walters

"'Who Killed Brown Owl' offers a witty, eerie undermining of English bucolic in one long take."

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FilmExposed - Beatrice Hitchman

"Paradoxically, it's the film which appears to have the lowest budget – made as a community collaborative project in Enfield – that has the biggest impact. Who Killed Brown Owl is a single-take swoop over an idyllic summer's day in a British park, in which all is decidedly not as it seems. Citing Agatha Christie and Turner paintings as influences, Who Killed Brown Owl is a feat of cinematography, and a haunting, witty and evocative piece which stays in the viewer's mind all day, all night - probably all year. A great end to a great showcase, proving that in spite of the difficulties of the gutter, short film-makers are aiming for the stars. Roll on, Vol 2."

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Total Film, January 2006 - Andy Lowe

"But the piece that most screams, 'Give this man a feature!' [desperate optimists]Who Killed Brown Owl, a dreamy, one-shot meander around a suburban murder-mystery montage. Think Jarvis Cocker apeing Scorsese in the style of Bruegel. All in 10 cosy minutes."