



Short film:
What Daphne Saw

See the full film description on page 33.

It was quite the experience switching on the television and experiencing *What Daphne Saw* when screening submissions this year. It presents powerlessness and voicelessness in a literal way. Selynn Silver (Daphne) plays a woman whose punishment for a capital crime is to live a reprogrammed life as a silent servant to a wealthy rich man. Silver's entire performance hinges on body language and the slightest of eye movements, as she is robbed of not only dialogue, but also the ability to show much, if any, emotion. It is a devastatingly subtle and powerful performance.

That performance is matched by George Griffith (*Twin Peaks: The Return*), who plays Paul, the man who is now Daphne's "owner." Paul is a man living with a lot of internal demons, and his self-enforced loneliness plays out in his meandering one-sided conversations with his new mute servant. He is the kind of man who could seem like a normal Joe, but behind the eyes and near whispers there is something dark. When that darkness is revealed, everything we thought was horrible suddenly gets stomach-churningly worse. As programmer Rebekah Fieschi puts it, "It's a sincerely upsetting film that will hopefully feel like a call to action to its audience."

Director Lizz Marshall will be joined on stage with NotInOurCity representatives Alicia Maroney and Angie Goeke. NotInOurCity is a non-profit organization that connects the film and music industry to provide awareness events, educational materials and experiences to build a network of resources to combat the horrors of human trafficking in the US. NotInOurCity partnered with Mars hall to create *What Daphne Saw* in direct connection with that mission. The notion that storytelling can be engaged in order to bring attention to real-world problems is central to their mission, and the conversation is sure to be fascinating and enlightening.

