



Undistributed Update, Part II: More Pics Plucked for Exhibition and Release

by Anthony Kaufman

Not to pat ourselves on the back (okay, we are), but indieWIRE has been highlighting the under-appreciated films of the American independent and foreign sectors since 1998, when our first contributor's poll of the best undistributed films of that year appeared. (That's before Film Comment and the Village Voice published similar stories). While times have significantly changed in the last six years, many of the same players, such as Strand Releasing and **First Run Features**, are steadfastly playing the indie game and continuing to pick up our unsung favorites. . . .



"Bright Leaves"

Director: **Ross McElwee**
(U.S., documentary)

Update: First screened as a work-in-progress at the 2002 IFF Market, documentary veteran McElwee's latest comic and touching investigation into his Southern heritage was acquired by First Run Features late last year, after a notable run at festivals from **Cannes** to the **New York Film**

Festival. "First Run has proudly distributed all of Ross's films, for almost 20 years now," says **First Run VP Marc Mauceri**. "We saw a cut of 'Bright Leaves' when it screened at the IFFM, and also we were at Cannes when the final version premiered there." The film is slated for release on August 25 at the **Film Forum**. Last week, **First Run** also released McElwee's landmark 1986 work "**Sherman's March**" on DVD, "packed with wonderful extra features," adds Mauceri, "and we plan to release other early McElwee films on DVD as well."

What's Next: McElwee hasn't yet decided on a new project. Says the filmmaker, "Too busy with what's now -- namely, getting 'Bright Leaves' out into the world."