Movie Talk: A Video Conversation with Jaie Laplante — Executive Director of Miami International Film Festival

By Elman + Perez-Trujillo

Jaie Laplante is the Executive Director of Miami Dade College's (MDC) Miami International Film Festival. He was born and raised in Alberta, Canada, and got hooked on films at an early age. As a young man he started reading Pauline Kael reviews, and by the age of 14 he had the "chutzpah" to call up the local newspaper and complain vociferously about the film critic, whereupon he was awarded the job over the telephone. Because Jaie already had a deep voice, they didn't realize he was only 14.

Working at the newspaper provided an opportunity to expand his knowledge of films and deepen his understanding of what makes films tick.

Laplante holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from York University with a specialization in film production. His film background includes acting, screenwriting and script supervision. He also has served as programming director for the Miami Short Film Festival. Laplante recently started a new Fall film festival called GEMS.

The videos below are organized by topic and run between 35 seconds and 2 minutes. Tap on any video. You must be connected to the Internet to view the videos.