



Tower Theater, Little Havana, Miami, FL, 2016. Photo: Manuel Perez-Trujillo.

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

By Elman + Perez-Trujillo

**J**aie 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.

### INTRODUCTION: 1:37 min.



### SELF-CONFIDENCE: 1:01 min.



*Where did you grow up and what was your earliest awareness of films as an art form?*

### EDUCATION: 1:44 min.



*When did you start thinking that you might have a career in the film industry, and did you do to prepare yourself for that career?*

### DEVELOP A VOICE: 57 sec.



*What was it like being a 14 year-old film critic for a major newspaper?*

### EXPOSURE TO BROAD BROAD INFLUENCES: 35 sec.



*What roles should universities play in helping Millennials appreciate classic black & white films?*

### INSIGHT & INSPIRATION: 1:40 min.



*Which critics or influencers are your touchstones?*

### PERSEVERANCE FURTHERS: 2:04 min.



*Please describe the process of booking films for the Miami International Film Festival.*

### OVERCOMES CHALLENGES TO SUCCEED: 55 sec.



*Describe a challenging situation with a successful outcome.*

### UNDERSTANDS THE BUSINESS OF ART: 48 sec.



*What can be done to improve the climate for filmmaking in Miami?*

### STRONG DRIVE FOR ACHIEVEMENT: 1:42 min.



*What is the future of filmmaking in Miami?*