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TuTuMuch a look inside the sometimes harsh world of ballet

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METRO CANADA
January 15, 2010 5:00 a.m.

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TuTuMuch
Director: Elise Swerhone
Classification: STC
Rating: ***1/2



TuTuMuch is a very simple and sweet documentary about nine young girls spending their summer auditioning for a spot at the Royal Winnipeg Ballet School -- the third consecutive documentary about young girls studying ballet from director Elise Swerhone.

It's an odd subject to focus a career on, but Swerhone clearly has a passion for the material and an ability to get her subjects to candidly open up on camera. With no clear central character, the film can feel a little unfocused at times, but it does create an effective study of the subject matter, even if it's hard to say how wide the appeal will be.

The film opens with nine young girls from around the world coming to a prestigious ballet school for a gruelling summer-long audition process. Stern teachers talk about how painful their training must be while criticizing girls young enough to have braces that their necks just aren't long enough to ever be dancers.

For audiences familiar with ballet or active within the dance community, this film should be fascinating. As an outsider looking in the movie is definitely interesting, but is a little too unfocused to be compelling.

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academic interest in the written craft of Emily Dickenson and the Brönte sisters, but also reaches to

the soaring vistas of the Yukon for inspiration.

The Book of Eli offers a believable Hell on Earth



With Hollywood currently saturating cinemas with post-apocalyptic drama, *The Book of Eli's* own tagline may be better suited to a

wishful maxim for its investors: Believe in Hope.

Brendan Fraser takes a dramatic turn in *Extraordinary Measures*



Brendan Fraser is best known as a tongue-in-cheek leading man who adds a much needed dose of humor to blockbusters like

Journey To The Center Of The Earth and the recent *Mummy* series.

Jackie Chan hits the bottom with *The Spy Next Door*



Oh, how far Jackie Chan has fallen. In his Hong Kong days, Chan was a legend. The man created slapstick kung fu and would write, direct,

and star in films that featured him doing his own stunts.

Choosing sides in late night: Rosie O'Donnell roots for O'Brien, says Leno should step aside



PASADENA, Calif. - Rosie O'Donnell said Thursday that it's time for Jay Leno to step aside for Conan O'Brien and "not try to flatten his tires before he even gets going."



lives trying to build a better Haiti.

Aid surges to Haiti, but groups face huge logistical challenges



GENEVA - Rescue workers and relief goods started pouring into Haiti from around the world Thursday but aid groups were running

into huge challenges trying to reach quake survivors trapped in the rubble or wandering homeless and hungry in the streets.

A year after Hudson River landing, some suffer flashbacks, anxiety



NEW YORK - Months after the crash, Doreen Welsh had a panic attack when she inhaled a little water in the shower. Anastasia Sosa no longer finds swimming fun - it feels too much like

survival training. And Jorge Morgado can't bring himself to get back on a plane.

'Precious,' 'Hurt Locker' mark year of sober themes at Golden Globes



LOS ANGELES - A loose and cheeky tone is typical for the Golden Globes. Yet Hollywood's first major prize show on the road to the

Academy Awards has plenty of heavy drama for the hard times we live in.

Soul singer Teddy Pendergrass dead at 59



NEW YORK - R&B singer Teddy Pendergrass, who was one of the most electric and successful figures in music until a car crash 28 years ago left him in a wheelchair, has died of colon cancer. He was 59.

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