

## TT3D: Closer to the Edge – Classic Cinema, 17<sup>th</sup> October 2011

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Kurn had alerted us to this movie a few months before and only watching the TT on television, I was keen to have a look at it on the big screen.

A special attraction on this Monday night screening was an introduction by Australian rider Cameron Donald. Turns out Cam is a local Warrandyte lad. (Mirko is positive he met him at the Black Spur roadhouse a few years ago!) Cam started on dirt bikes, won the Vic championship three times, then moved into road racing with 125/250GP and finally Australian Supersport/Superbike. He then competed in the Asian Championships before moving to British Superbikes (BSB). We were able to talk with him prior to the movie and had some memorabilia signed. He was very relaxed and approachable so we had a great chat.

The event was so popular that the Classic Cinema had to open two theatres just for the film! During the intro Cameron explained that the producer had shot over 700 hours of film which was eventually cut down to 103 minutes and that there was also some great archival film as well.

Cameron first competed at the TT in 2005, finishing 12<sup>th</sup> outright. He had visited a year before as growing up in a motorcycling family (father/elder brother) the TT had been talked about as the ‘holy grail’ of road racing. He said once he saw it, he wanted to be part of it.

The Isle of Man Tourist Trophy road races began in 1904 because the UK had a speed restriction of 20 mph on all automobiles/motorbikes. So the Automobile Car Club of Britain and Ireland approached the authorities in the Isle of Man for the permission to race automobiles on public roads. Permission was granted to use the 52.15 mile Highlands Course from 1904 onwards.

This film recounts the 2010 challenge. It mainly focused on Guy Martin who works with his father in a truck repair business. He is a very pedantic person with a dry sense of humor. When they asked him what did his girlfriend think of him racing, he said “I don’t have a girlfriend; I’m not gay; I do like girls; I’d just rather be riding me bike or messing about with engines than shagging”!

Guy crashed out of the TT at 170mph on the Ballagarey (BallaSCARY) bend. His fiery crash did the Internet rounds. Amazingly, he survived with just bruising to both lungs and minor fractures to his upper spine!

There is also lots of background footage on Ian Hutchinson, John McGuinness, Michael Dunlop, Cameron Donald, David Jefferies, Bruce Anstey, Adrian Archibald and Jim Moodie. Plus interviews with marshalls, medics, towns folk and TT visitors. It also has lots of crashes – some fatal, which are followed up with interviews of wives, family and friends. The common thread was they died doing something they loved!

What’s it like in 3D? I’ll let the blurb explain it –

*A breakout hit in UK cinemas, blowing critics and audiences away with its blend of breath-taking 3D and real-life action, TT3D was described by TOTAL FILM as "A life affirming, heart stopping joy ride for anyone with a pulse". By vividly recounting the TT's legendary rivalries and the Isle of Man's unique road racing history, this 3D feature documentary combines drama, humour, tension and tragedy to tell a very moving human story and discover why modern TT riders still risk their lives to win the world's most dangerous race. A story about freedom of choice and the strength of the human spirit, it's also an examination of what motivates those rare few who risk everything to win.*

Don’t miss it!

**Ian Payne**