

# FESTIVAL DIARY — Days 9 & 10

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The last film of the day was *The Boys Are Back*, directed by Scott Hicks.

The film stars **Clive Owen** as sports writer Joe Warr who becomes a single father very early in the film when his wife dies because of illness. While he tries to deal with his grief he also has to figure out how to parent his toddler since his wife was the one who provided the structure and the nurturing. To complicate things, a teenage son from a previous marriage comes to live with Joe. It's refreshing to see Owen in a role other than any number of the macho roles he's done in the last few years although some of the more heart wrenching scenes of grief and vulnerability seemed at times, forced and unconvincing. The film could have been a sentimental melodrama but the scenes and dialogue between Warr and his sons as they try to make a home for themselves came across as authentic and natural. The score by **Hal Lindes** is hauntingly beautiful. Overall, a satisfying film.