Gypsy Caravan

Year Released: 2006  
Directed By: Jasmine Dellal  
(NR, 111 min.)

Long ago the ancestors of the Roma left northern India, and they have journeyed ever since. Ten million Roma – or gypsies, a term some reclaim and some reject – still share a language and culture but are settled all over the world. Billed as the “Gypsy Caravan,” five bands travel across America making music from across the Romani diaspora: the traditional music of Maharaja, from India; the powerhouse vocals of Macedonia’s Esma Redzepova, officially dubbed “Queen of the Gypsies” in India in 1976; the flamenco stylings of Spain’s Antonio El Pipa; the festive folk of Romanian ensemble Taraf de Haidouks (seen in Tony Gatlif’s Latcho Drom and endorsed in the film by Johnny Depp); and boisterous brass band Fanfare Ciocarlia. Documentarian Dellal follows the tour intimately, interweaving footage (some of it shot by the indefatigable Albert Maysles) from the stage and from the road with the stories of key players: Johnny Depp; and boisterous brass band Fanfare Ciocarlia. Documentarian Dellal follows the tour intimately, interweaving footage (some of it shot by the indefatigable Albert Maysles) from the stage and from the road with the stories of key players:

- The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford  
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- Dragon Wars: D-War  
- Eastern Promises
- Good Luck Chuck
- The Hottest State
- In the Shadow of the Moon
- In the Valley of Elah
- Lady Chatterley

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The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford  
The Assassination of Jesse James may be the world’s first epic of misguided hero worship. - Josh Rosenblatt

Dragon Wars: D-War  
Based on a Korean legend, Dragon Wars is the fantasy story of reporter who unearths the truth about catastrophic L.A. earthquakes and sets off to save the city. - Marc Savlov

Eastern Promises

In Cronenberg’s film about the Russian mob in London, the director and star Viggo Mortensen relate a corker of a story. - Marc Savlov

Good Luck Chuck

Pitted somewhere between Farrelly Brothers-lite and some oddball National Lampoon outing, this comedy is as familiar as it is charming, which isn’t to say it’s a good film. - Marc Savlov

The Hottest State

Ethan Hawke writes and directs this story based on his own novel about a lovesick narcissist in New York City. - Marjorie Baumgarten

In the Shadow of the Moon

This documentary is a cheery restorative that recalls hazy memories of America’s finest, boldest hour, when we went to the moon, again and again. - Marc Savlov

In the Valley of Elah

Paul Haggis and Tommy Lee Jones deliver a scorching film that’s part police procedural, part family melodrama, and all about our national failures in Iraq. - Josh Rosenblatt

Lady Chatterley

This new French version of
the D.H. Lawrence story is tastefully presented but not nearly as scandalous and coarse as the published novel. - Marjorie Baumgarten

Sea of Dreams
She's married to the sea, and he belongs to the earth: This Mexican film relies on prehistoric folk myths and a delightful color palette for its impact. - Marjorie Baumgarten

Vanaja
In this Indian film, an adolescent girl named Vanaja, who dreams of becoming a dancer, is raped by her landlady's son. - Marjorie Baumgarten

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