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## Dudek on Film **Duane Dudek**

Journal Sentinel film critic offers his take on the state of the movie world

### Song Sung Blue Symposium

By Duane Dudek

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Last week's New York Times story about bloggers filing so often that they were literally blogging themselves to death was reason enough for me to step away from the keyboard for a few days, as if I needed an excuse.

But with two local stories begging to be over-covered, its time to wade back into the fray.

Today's item is about the film that doesn't star Johnny Depp.

"Song Sung Blue," the documentary about Milwaukee based Neil Diamond and Patsy Cline impersonators Mike and Claire Sardina - aka Lightning and Thunder - had a very successful screening at the Wisconsin Film Festival in Madison according to participants.

"People hoping for tickets were lined up down to the end of teh block," the couple's manager Tom D'Amato wrote in an email.

The first screening was attended by the "entire Milwaukee based crew, including Thunder," said the film's Philadelphia based director Greg Kohs. "The audience was the most enthusiastic of any festival audience to date," Kohs wrote in an e mail.

"You could hear a pin drop in some scenes," D'Amato wrote.

One of the film's high points - see my [capsule review](#) - was their Summerfest appearance with Pearl Jam, where Eddie Vedder joins them in singing "Forever in Blue Jeans." D'Amato said that during that show "Vedder was an absolulte gentleman." He "had his manager give me whatever tickets I wanted and passes and was extremely polite to our wives and daughters."

As my review indicates, this is a very touching work about American dreams and human frailties, whose highs and too-many-to-count lows feel alternately intoxicating and stomach wrenching. Kohs has submitted the film to the Milwaukee International Film Festival "and we have our fingers crossed" that it will be accepted. And he said that "increased buzz" over the film has interested "several major distribution companies."

Kohs advises people go to [www.songsungblueblog.com](http://www.songsungblueblog.com) for the latest news about the film and festival screening announcements.

And below I've posted below a selection of footage related to the film including interviews with Kohs and Claire Sardina, promo clips and a version of the song sung by Neil Diamond.

"Song Sung Blue" promo clip #1

"Song Sung Blue" promo clip #2

"Song Sung Blue" promo clip #3

Television interview of Claire Sardina and director Greg Kohs (part one)

Television interview with Claire Sardina and Greg Kohs (part two)

Neil Diamond singing "Song Sung Blue"

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