

## DVD review

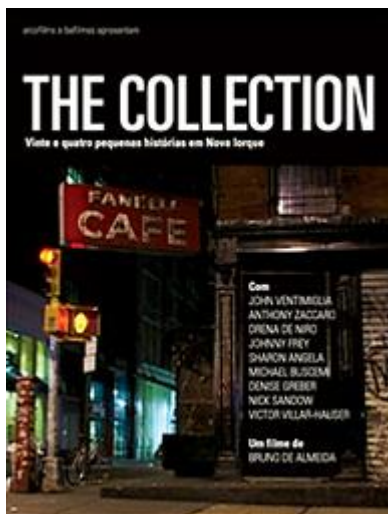
By Jorge Leitão Ramos, Actual - Expresso (21/04/06)

# The Collection

A film by Bruno de Almeida

They're 24 short stories shot in New York between May 2001 and December 2005, part of a project that Bruno de Almeida and a group of actors/writers (John Ventimiglia, Anthony Zaccaro, Drena de Niro, Johnny Frey, Sharon Angela, Michael Buscemi, Denise Greber, Victor Villar-Hauser e Nick Sandow) made under the name DV Workshop.

The stories were developed collaboratively by the group and the films, shot with a small digital camera and edited in a portable computer, were shown on the Internet as they were being made. **The Collection** is the compilation of these 24 segments, which premiered in December at Studio Dante in New York City and this week had its Portuguese premiere at the Cinemateque part of the present DVD release.



The project is original enough to deserve attention. But, better than the idea itself is the way in which it came about, generating films that are like a New York mosaic with a deep fictional breath. Sometimes, less than stories they are almost like flashes (**Dog, The Interview, Search and Destroy, Spark**); other times, seeds that one would want to see grow (like the two **The Super** which makes us want to know more about that woman beyond what goes on in that building, beyond what goes on in apartment 3-B; or the splendid **The Shine** in which the future of that man that went for a shoe shine becomes suspended leaving us hungry for more); others

still, are almost like intimate looks, moments to see the group and the places without the interference of fiction (**Cabaret Sauvignon, Anthony's Truck, Sleepy Moon**).

The genres mix themselves in this film where comedy and tragedy are juxtaposed under the impulse and the adrenaline of an immense love for cinema. And it's stimulating to see it being born, and re-start 24 times showing that there's no lack of directions, or talent and that the means can almost be invented each time.

Jorge Leitão Ramos

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