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**From the surface of the moon to a Kawasaki campaign trail, Hot Docs celebrates reality moviemaking**

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Geoff Pevere

Movie Critic

In Jennifer Venditti's *Billy the Kid*, there's a long sequence in which an emotionally scarred 15-year-old boy finally works up the nerve to approach the girl he's been admiring from a painful distance. So deftly has the film aligned our emotional attachment to Billy, the ensuing exchange has all the raw, almost unbearable suspense of anything to be found in a contemporary Hollywood thriller. We pray that she will like Billy as much as we have come to.

*Billy the Kid*: Jennifer Venditti's portrait of Billy, a keenly intelligent and preternaturally sensitive 15-year-old with self-described "issues," is an extraordinarily affecting study in the life of an outsider. Following Billy as he cycles through the quiet streets of his small town, talking about music, love and the frustrating gap between imagination and reality, the film invites you to see the world his way. As quietly inspiring as it is genuinely heartbreaking, *Billy the Kid* is an act of passionate empathy.