

plain Fischer's later years, fogged by paranoia and violently anti-Semitic delusions – this from a man whose mother was Jewish. It's a sad story of genius paying for the gift.

BAL (HONEY)

(NC) 103 mins, *Semih Kaplanoglu*

STARRING: Bora Altas, Erdal Besikcioglu, Tulin Ozen

☆☆☆☆☆

Semih Kaplanoglu's film is a quiet miracle. *Honey* completes a trilogy (the first two parts, *Milk* and *Egg*, were not released here) but stands alone as a beautiful and haunting study in familial love. Six-year-old Yusuf (Bora Altas) lives with his parents in the remote hills of north-east Turkey. Though isolated from his schoolmates because of his stammer, he can talk fluently to the father (Erdal Besikcioglu) he adores and follows about like a puppy. When the father goes off to the mountains to hang his beehives – a perilous business – and doesn't return, Yusuf is thrown back on his own devices and becomes almost mute before his long-suffering mother. Kaplanoglu and his cinematographer Baris Ozbicer use light like Dutch genre painters, and the domestic interiors have the chiaroscuro loveliness of the Spanish artist Juan Cotan. One scene, in which Yusuf plays with the moon's silver reflection in a pail of water, is destined to be a classic. Bora Altas, as the boy, has a face of such sweet solemnity it could move a stone, or a beehive, come to that. Watch the scene where he atones for his treachery to a schoolfriend without your eyes filling up. *Honey* pays homage to the grace and mystery of nature, but it will linger as one of the great modern films about

childhood. The Berlin Film Festival judges thought so, too – it won this year's Golden Bear.

JUST DO IT

(NC) 90 mins, *Emily James*

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Sometimes even doing the right thing doesn't save you from being tiresome. Emily James's docu-tribute to young British activists – among them members of Plane Stupid and Climate Camp – highlights what they'll do in defence of the environment, turning up mob-handed at power plants and blockading City banks. There's bravery, too, in going up against the rough-house tactics of the police in Copenhagen. But the political sloganeering – everything, but everything, is the fault of "the capitalists" – and the air of self-righteousness are unendearing, even if you applaud the principle.

HOBO WITH A SHOTGUN

(18) 86 mins, *Jason Eisener*

STARRING: Rutger Hauer, Pasha Ebrahimi, Robb Wells

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This apparently began life as a trailer for a fake grindhouse movie, much as Roberto Rodriguez's *Machete* did. Jason Eisener, tongue half in cheek, delivers a splatter movie that ought to have the old "X" rating after it. Rutger Hauer plays the nameless hobo who arrives in a town run by a vicious crime family with the police in their pocket. So grotesque is their depravity that Rutger decides enough is enough, picks up a shotgun and starts delivering justice "one shell at a time". Shot in acid yellows and Hallowe'en reds, it stomps over any notions of good taste and credibility after roughly five minutes.