

The hit of the festival, the audience favourite was the Wolf Whisperer, Andrew Simpson, with his documentary, **WOLVES UNLEASHED**. *Written by Virginia Friedman*



I met Andrew Simpson, a Scottish-born Canadian animal trainer for Hollywood films, and a full-time wolf whisperer. I had a chance to chat with Andrew at the festival and this guy is the real deal: sweet, humble, modest and not only can he dance with wolves, he can get them to follow a script.

Andrew told me that he was to take his wolves to Siberia to star in the French feature film, *Loup*, when he got the idea to make a “behind the scenes” documentary so that people could appreciate a side of wolves that is almost never depicted in films.

Audiences are familiar with the snarling evil beast, but not the affectionate, trusting, spiritual animal that he knows so well. Andrew told me that wolves are very intelligent - even more intelligent than dogs, and that they can be very caring and are fully capable of forming bonds with people.

Andrew raises his wolves from pups and has them live in the house with him, travel in his car, and even sleep in his bed. This way, the wolves develop a special relationship with him and are able to take direction. They also seem to enjoy all the attention and respond to human warmth and kindness.

