

## **Most unlikely climax in controversial film**

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VIEWERS at Sunday s screening of Unlikely Travellers could not see why the documentary by Queensland University of Technology Phd student Michael **Noonan** caused so much controversy.

The documentary about six intellectually **disabled** people s trip to Egypt was played to a sellout audience of 220 at the Gallery of Modern Arts cinema.

No doubt the media attention it received after two **QUT** academics, Gary MacLennan and John Hookham, were suspended without pay for criticising **Noonan** s Phd project piqued interest.

Greg Seeto said the controversy was partly why he wanted to watch it but he could not see what all the fuss was about.

To me it shows that **disabled** people are just like you and me, he said.

Zara Bradley, whose autistic brother James starred in the documentary, said the film helped others take an interest in people with disabilities other than their families.

If these people (the stars in Unlikely Travellers) did not have a disability there would be no controversy, she said.

**Noonan** said he would have liked to have seen lecturers Gary MacLennan and John Hookham and other protestors at the screening.

Dr Hookham said it was not Unlikely Travellers he objected to but **Noonan** s other film Darren and James Mystery Tour, saying it was distasteful and ridiculed people with disabilities. It was part of **Noonan** s project Laughing at the **Disabled** (now Laughing with the **Disabled**).

Unlikely Travellers marked the end of the Brisbane International Film Festival which showcased more than 100 local and overseas films in 10 days.

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