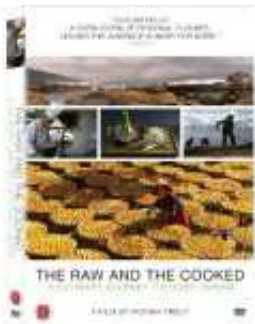


The Raw and The Cooked



Cooking shows and celebrity chefs are so ubiquitous, and so bland, these days that it's a welcome relief to settle in and follow writer/director Monika Treut on her culinary expedition of Taiwan because she keeps the focus of the film on the food and the people who make it. And while there are plenty of cooking shows these days filled with photo ops showing the celebrity chef touring the market early in the morning, you can tell they are only doing it because the cameras are there. Not so the chefs in Treut's film, most of who have a personal relationship with the people who raise the food they feed their customers. The director also does a good job of establishing the place where all this lovely cooking takes place, without being snarky or judgmental about it, or too touristy, too. She's the perfect guide for a culinary journey many of us will only dream about. **3 stars**

Pato Banton – Live and Seen



Most people's knowledge of reggae music begins and ends with Bob Marley. That's not necessarily a bad thing, but, as this delightful documentary reveals there's more to discover and enjoy. The film is actually just a couple of reggae TV shows tacked together with Banto speaking directly at you answering questions asked off camera, so it's not much to look at, visually speaking. That doesn't matter because the music is so good and Banto is such an engaging interview. The film is a big fan letter to the man, too, so it doesn't really put his career into perspective, at least in terms of the cultural and political influence of reggae music in Jamaica and throughout the world. Again, that's not a problem because it's pretty clear that Banto isn't trying to be a lightning rod for political movements. He just wants to dance and have fun. You will, too. **3 stars**

Color Me Obsessed: A Film About the Replacements