

A real gem found in Fortitude Bay

By Sean Sweet

The world premier of *Trial* at Fortitude Bay was screened at the Park Lane Theatres as part of The Atlantic Film Festival last Friday night.

The story, filmed in Winnipeg and Iqaluit (Northwest Territories), goes inside the courtroom of the fictitious Inuit community of Fortitude Bay and examines the application of Canadian law to a traditional culture.

The conflict (there has to be one in a courtroom drama) centers around the sentence to be handed to 17 year old "Pauloosie" (played by Paul Gordon), who pleads guilty to having nonconsensual sex with a minor. While the Crown cries for seven years in a federal penitentiary; the defence (after several moving episodes with the people) favours a traditional, Inuit form of rehabilitation: hunting. Those who offend others in the community are made to tell the truth and be forgiven. Through extended hunting trips, guilty Inuit seek harmony with themselves.

Elders preach that imprisonment, White Law, is too easy. Instead of the community giving their problems to strangers, they should deal with them internally.

Trial at Fortitude Bay was very realistic. The town site was not made-over into a picturesque sportsman's paradise; nor was it an arts and crafts mecca. The acting, issues and cam-

era work were all superb. Movie goes new to Arctic surroundings were treated to a 93 minute medley of small engine flights, a narwhal hunt, tundra travel (complete with ski-doods and "qamotiqs" — or sleds), a glimpse at justice issues and a listen in on genuine dialogue — some of which was in Inuktitut.

Whether viewers agreed with the court decision or not, *Trial* at Fortitude Bay was a film fest gem that inspired an unexpectedly profound consciousness. The soundtrack, by Inuit singer/songwriter Susan Aglukark of Arviat, Northwest Territories, added both culture and emotion to the flick.

Producer Chris Zimmer was in attendance and said they just finished the film a week ago. Joining Zimmer for the debut was director Vic Sarin, who shared comments about his experience in the north.

"We all thought that shooting [the film] by the Arctic Circle, there would be plenty of snow - but this

was not the case. We were losing snow every day, and had to ship it in on the last few days." Sarin added that the adventure was well worth the time and effort spent.

"I had a wonderful experience meeting the Inuit people."

Lasher doesn't satisfy

by Jason Blakey

How do I begin to review Anne Rice's recent foray into her most well-known invention — the supernatural world?

I suppose one way would be to describe how I felt upon finishing the book... the hefty book... the somewhat drawn-out book.

"Unsatisfied" is one word which jumps to mind. The book does have an ending, but how that ending comes about is what leaves the bad taste in one's mouth.

Readers of the "Thomas Covenant" saga, by Donaldson, will be able to see what I'm talking about. In the first book of that series, the "hero" commits an act of rape that made me put down the book when I first began reading it. However, when I took up the series again, Covenant went on to redeem himself, if not in his eyes, then in mine.

This is in stark contrast to the actions of the main characters in *Lasher*, who finish the series by committing unnecessary killings. How can they redeem themselves of that crime? The series is completed, and they have nowhere left to go.

Leaving the ending of the book out of it, the rest of the story is alright. It certainly runs at a faster pace than *The Witching Hour*, the

there are
much better
books

first book of the "Mayfair" story. This volume does start out slow, however, so don't expect to be "unable to put it down", at least not until you reach page 150, if at all.

This book does not compare to *Interview with a Vampire* in its descriptive attempts, nor does it come

close to *Tale of the Body Thief* in its action content. It seems to tread the middle line and does not always maintain its balance.

There are, however, a few bright spots in this "deep grey" of a book — "Uncle Julien's" recounting of life in early New Orleans... the Talamasca's continuing development... *Lasher's* description of his prior life as a Franciscan Monk (though this recounting is nowhere near as descriptive or fascinating as Eco's in *The Name of the Rose*).

At a price of \$19.50 for the soft-cover version, I'd have to say that there are much better books out there for that amount of money. On a scale of 1 to 10 — 1 being "Waste of cash"; 10 being "Get a bike, collect aluminum can, recycle and purchase" — I'd rate this a 4.

It's not that bad, and it's not that good. Better to borrow a copy than to spring for this one.

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