



For Immediate Release

SPIT: Squeegee Punks in Traffic

Opens theatrical run in Toronto at the Carlton Theatre May 23rd.

Youth Beware! In an effort to rid the city of squeegee kids, Zero Tolerance policies are in effect on the streets of Toronto. Mel Lastman calls them “thugs” and “criminals” and vows to “wipe them out”. The PC Government passes the “Safe Streets Act” declaring squeegee kids Public Enemy #1. Police officers volunteer overtime hours to “anti-squeegee” target squads, while the Media explodes with headlines like “It’s War on Squeegees!” (Toronto Sun). So what can one punk named Roach, armed with a camera, a squeegee and a black flag hope to do against these converging anti-squeegee forces?

Internationally acclaimed director Daniel Cross (*The Street: a film with the homeless*) presents a gutter-level view of a squeegee punk living on the streets of Toronto and Montreal. ***SPIT: Squeegee Punks in Traffic*** follows Roach, a 17-year-old ex-junkie, through the conservative hell unleashed by the Common-Sense Revolution. Cross gives Roach a camera (the **RoachCAM**) to document his life. The viewer follows Roach, positioned behind enemy lines: squatting under the Gardiner, squeegeeing for money and rioting against the system. Over the next 3 years, we see Roach make a journey from street punk to aspiring filmmaker.

The result is a punk-verité feature that changes all the rules. ***SPIT: Squeegee Punks in Traffic*** smashes the windshield between US and THEM. Roach's camera acts as the hammer: hard, forceful, direct, impacting with the force of an actual life. Daniel Cross' camera documents the impact: recording the reflections of individual lives, mirrored upon the shards of flying glass. These kids refuse to obey, assimilate or conform to societal values. Their beliefs and realities are scarred into their flesh in the forms of piercings, tattoos and bruised veins. ***SPIT*** is a harsh, unflinching film following Roach's odyssey through the battles of his hardcore generation.

SPIT: Squeegee Punks in Traffic was launched at the Festival of New Cinema and New Media in Montreal and went on to a 10 week theatrical run, as well as festivals around the world. Details: 80 min, 35mm print. Original English version.

TORONTO THEATRICAL RUN:

-Press screening: Thursday, May 15th 10:00am
Varsity Cinemas, VIP Cinema #3, 55 Bloor St. West (Manulife Centre)

-Open run begins May 23rd at the Carlton Cinemas
Please note that filmmakers Roach and Daniel Cross will be in Toronto for interviews starting May 15th and in attendance for Q and A sessions at the Toronto screenings.

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Filmmakers Roach (Eric Denis) and Daniel Cross can be contacted at (514) 937-4893

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