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WRITTEN BY KEVIN JOHNS

TUESDAY, 29 SEPTEMBER 2009 00:00

Filmmakers Tim Doiron and April Mullen's *Rock, Paper, Scissors: The Way of the Tosser* is the type of movie that makes you want to take all of the Hollywood blockbusters in your DVD collection, throw them in the garbage, and then tattoo SUPPORT INDEPENDENT CINEMA across your chest.

(Well, it's the type of movie that makes *me* want to do that anyway.)

The Way of the Tosser is a hilarious mockumentary chronicling the daily regime of rock paper scissors enthusiast Gary Brewer as he trains for the Rock Paper Scissors Word Championships. His girlfriend Holly (retired from the game after a humiliating scissors vs. paper loss) supports Gary along with their friend and roommate Trevor Morehouse (when he's not distracted by his Polaroid camera or the ghost of Rufus, the deceased family dog). Quirky characters in memorable costumes delivering hilarious deadpan one-liners and brilliant physical gags makes for comedy gold.

Shot in seven days on a limited budget by a crew that totalled barely a dozen individuals, this movie is independent cinema at its best. *The Way of the Tosser* isn't a corporate endeavour. It's not filmmaking by committee. A group of executives from a multinational corporation didn't determine the narrative based on test-groups findings. And this isn't a remake produced with the intention of cashing in on the nostalgia of something that was popular a decade ago. This is a unique story told by passionate artists with talent equal to the lofty aims set forth by their own ambitions.

Beautiful designed art direction, brilliant costumes, and wonderful performances all serve not only the story but also the characters themselves, for this film is undeniably a character piece. The adventure Gary and his friends undergo is engrossing, but it is the charm of the characters themselves (including Gary's nemesis Baxter Pound, mentor Finnegan O'Reilly, and neighbours Lloyd and Linda Ludlow) that keeps audiences watching throughout the feature's length. And just who those dynamic characters are is undeniably Canadian.

One of the definitive classics of Canadian cinema, Doland Shebib's 1970 masterpiece *Goin' Down the Road*, tells the story of two men from the Maritimes who make a pilgrimage to big city Toronto in hopes of escaping the poverty of the east. What they discover in Toronto is more hard times. Unable to get a foot in the door, they return to the coast, defeated.

"A unique story told by passionate

Canadian cinema is not about how cool it would be to look like Zac Efron and be back in high school again; that is what Hollywood is about. American cinema excels at telling stories about underdogs who prevail against all odds. Canadian cinema (films like *Goin' Down the Road* and *The Way of the Tosser*) excels at telling stories about underdogs

This is independent cinema at its best.



April Mullen as Holly Brewer, and Ryan Tilley as Trevor Morehouse

ARTICLE INFO

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