



A good Friday for Canadian films

HIGH MARKS FOR A SUZD ROMANCE, A FARLEY MOWAT ADAPTATION, AND AN ALTMAN PROTÉGÉ

Eating The Bones has real romance

Love, Sex & Eating the Bones is a Canadian romantic comedy that — almost shockingly — actually is romantic. And comic. And even sexy.

It's also what's commonly described as an "urban" film, which means that most of its cast members are black (as is its writer-director, Suzd

Sutherland); yeah, race is an element of the film, but it's not an issue: This is a much more universal story, about an aspiring photographer named Michael (Hill Harper) and a marketing executive named Jasmine (Marleyne N. Afflack), who meet in a Toronto laundromat.

Their courtship is drawn

with a series of small but tender flourishes; serious-minded Jasmine desperately wants to shake off her long-standing singlehood, while the more casual Michael is overwhelmed by the maturity of his feelings. But there's a small problem: He's addicted to porn movies, and can't quite function without them.

Sutherland handles the ensuing crisis very deftly, painting the porn material as just silly enough (and just off-camera enough) to keep a mainstream audience comfortable while treating Michael's issue as a real problem.

Things do get serious in the film's last reel, when

Love, Sex & Eating the Bones stumbles and falls into a much more maudlin groove than the characters seem to merit . . . but the chemistry between Harper and Afflack keeps the movie alive long enough to right itself at the end. ★★★

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