Written by Michael Gingold
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SUCK may be one of a number of independent vampire comedies to make the scene lately, but the Canadian production has a difference—it’s actually funny, as well as occasionally bloody enough to sate fans displeased with the anemic likes of the TWILIGHT movies. The movie recently played the Museum of Modern Art as part of its Canadian Front series, where Fango got a chance to chat with its writer/director/star Rob Stefaniuk (pictured).

The filmmaker, who previously directed and starred in PHIL THE ALIEN, toplines SUCK as Joey, part of an up-and-coming rock group called The Winners that’s about to embark on a Canada/northeast U.S. tour. On the eve of their departure, sole female bandmate Jennifer (Jessica Paré) is bitten by a seductive bloodsucker—and while her new hunger for blood causes problems for the other Winners, she also develops a fresh allure that makes them a hit with audiences. The movie has been attracting a lot of positive attention too, Stefaniuk says. “We won the People’s Choice Award up at the Whistler Film Festival and got a lot of press at the Toronto Film Festival, and we did a lot of deals there as well. And we premiered at South by Southwest recently; I wasn’t there, but apparently it was sold out, they turned away 100 people and it went over really big. And to be at the Museum of Modern Art is totally cool, and the crowds have been great and very responsive. I’ve just really been enjoying it. So far, so good!”

For Stefaniuk, who has also previously acted in a number of features and TV episodes, SUCK’s positive reception is the gratifying result of five years of work getting the movie off the ground. He admits that the newfound popularity of creatures of the night helped him secure the backing for the film. “People said no, but then vampires started doing well and it happened,” he says, adding that the lengthy development period may have been to the movie’s advantage. “It’s a little movie, but I got to work with some of my all-time heroes, and I believe everything happens for a reason. I could’ve made this movie five years ago, but it would’ve starred me and David Hasselhoff, and now it stars me and Iggy Pop! So I feel pretty good about the way things turned out.”

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