

in the company of men

Rodrigo Arellano

The plot of *in the company of men* is as improbable as it is probable: in an attempt to get even with the female race, two executives who have been recently left by their girlfriends plan to seduce the same woman, cause her to fall in love with them, and then break her heart by unceremoniously dumping her at the same time. And what do our protagonists get out of this? As one of them says, "she'll be reaching for the sleeping pills within a week and you and me, we'll laugh about this until we're very old men." But what they secretly seek and get out of this overt manipulation is more than a laugh.

Do not, however, be put off by the misogynist attitude of the male characters; *in the company of men* has been described as one of the most feminist movies ever made.

This is director Neil LaBute's first feature film. In last year's Sundance Film Festival it won the Filmmakers' Trophy. A great feat considering it was shot in a couple of weeks and LaBute's mother cooked for the crew and actors during filming to save money.

This film has nothing to do with love and everything to do with the need and greed for power and control. *In the company of men* reminds me of another film showing at present called *Under the Skin* about a girl who has trouble adapting to her mother's death. While *in the company of men* looks at the human struggle to control others, *Under the Skin* (a film full of questions and observations but lacklustre in entertainment) looks at the human struggle to control oneself.

This is an interesting and entertaining film and I guarantee that at the end of it you'll be the one saying, "Hey, I know guys like this."

