

Cuts like a knife, feels alright

The Texas Chainsaw Massacre: The Beginning

Directed by Jonathon Liebesman
Starring Jordana Brewster, Taylor Handley, Matthew Boomer, Diorna Baird, R Lee Ermey and Andrew Bryniarski
Empire Theatres
Now Playing

PATRICK ROSS
Arts & Entertainment Staff

Ah, a deranged boy and his chain-saw—it's almost like something Norman Rockwell would've painted, had he been addicted to absinthe.

The Texas Chainsaw Massacre: The Beginning follows a recent Hollywood trend: that of the ever-dreaded prequel. The premise of the film is very simple, though—it chronicles the beginnings of Leatherface, the Hewitt family and the carnage they perpetrate in the heart of Texas.

In order for such a tale to be told, the story requires some victims. As is the case with 2003's *Texas Chainsaw Massacre* remake, the film supplies a very attractive quartet. Jordana Brewster—clearly seeking to replicate Jessica Biel's 2003 transition from WB obscurity to silver-screen stardom—portrays Chrissie, a young woman who's on a road trip with her fiancé Dean (Taylor Handley) before he returns to fight in Vietnam. His brother Eric (Matthew Boomer) has just been drafted, but he doesn't want to go. Instead, he and his girlfriend Bailey (Diorna Baird) hatch a plan to dodge the draft and escape to Mexico.

A chance encounter with a biker and a cow, and an ensuing car accident, places the group at the fickle mercies of Sheriff Hoyt (R Lee Ermey). Eric's partially burned draft card invokes Hoyt's disgust and subsequent wrath, and what ensues is nothing less than a complete, um, massacre.

The Beginning provides the first complete, coherent vision of the Hewitt family, laying the groundwork for their future vicious escapades. Their seemingly unrestrained lunacy begins to make a certain logical—albeit twisted—sense. Now, as opposed to deranged maniacs, they're portrayed as cannibalistic hermits waging an unimaginably vicious guerilla war



against the outside world.

At times, the film comes across as a grim psychological and emotional endurance test rather than a horror movie. Whereas 2003's *Massacre* saw murderous strokes that were comparatively short and merciful, *Leatherface* now takes his time with his victims; he dispatches them with an unrefined and murderous glee.

Leatherface isn't yet the seasoned killer he becomes in later films. He attacks his victims with the vengeful passion of a young Richie Ramirez, causing the blood and gore to flow liberally.

But there's brilliance in this. *Leatherface* isn't yet the seasoned killer he becomes in later films. He attacks his victims with the vengeful passion of a young Richie Ramirez, causing the blood and gore to flow liberally. It's as if

director Jonathon Liebesman is daring the audience to look away.

In addition, Sheriff Hoyt serves as the savage carbon copy to Thomas Hewitt's murderous ways. Where Tommy is the novice serial killer, Hoyt is the experienced torturer, dispensing his abuse with complete and utter disdain for human compassion.

Liebesman (taking over for Marcus Nispel) takes producer Michael Bay's formula and works it to perfection. Every instant of this film feels dark, gritty, dirty and grimy. Like 2003's *Massacre*, Liebesman takes full advantage of his stars' sex appeal, but effectively contrasts it against the brutal ugliness of their surroundings.

The Beginning provides all the answers to the audience's important questions, but unfortunately, it's hard to really get excited about a film when you already know how it's going to end. On the other hand, though, *The Beginning* has the right stuff to force the audience to pay attention, mostly because there's a constant gushing of innards from the on-screen characters. Indeed, there's a good chance that you'll leave the theatre feeling as if your own heart has just been sawed into oblivion.



KRYSTINA SULATYCKI

PLAY THAT FUNKY MUSIC, COWBOY Corb Lund kicked off his boots and did his nitty gritty business last Thursday.

New Asian Village
requires Fine Dining Servers, Buspenders,
Dishwashers & Delivery Drivers.

Experienced, mature applicants only.

Send resume by email to
dine@newasianvillage.com
or by fax to 433-8476.



UPDATE YOUR STUDENT STATUS WITH YOUR LENDERS BY THE END OF OCTOBER TO MAINTAIN YOUR LOAN'S INTEREST FREE STATUS.

Come visit us if you need more information.

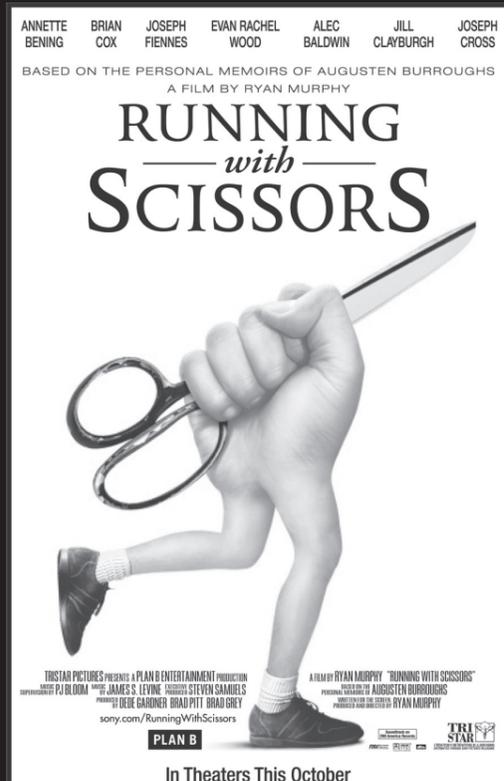
Your Education, Your Money - Start Asking Questions



1-80 SUB
8:30 AM TO 4:30 PM MONDAY TO FRIDAY
492-3483
SFAIC@SU.UALBERTA.CA
WWW.SU.UALBERTA.CA/SFAIC



win free movie passes



Email contests@gateway.ualberta.ca and enter to win a guest pass for two for a preview screening at Cineplex South Edmonton Common (1525-99th St.) on Wednesday, October 25, 2006 at 7:00pm.

IN THEATRES OCTOBER 27th