

Outstanding cast in this rare gem

DESOLATION SOUND: Film derived from a short story is not your typical suspense thriller



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ON MOVIES

Desolation Sound was a haven for actors.

Besides its outstanding cast (Helene Joy, Ian Tracey, Jennifer Beals, Ed Begley Jr.), this shot-on-the-Sunshine Coast suspense thriller was written by actor Glynis Davies, who also appears in the movie, and directed by former actor Scott Weber. (It plays VIFF today at 11:30 a.m., Granville.)

Weber, though, lost the desire to act long ago. "I wanted to be an

actor so I move to Toronto (from Montreal). And then I wanted to be a director so I moved out here," he says. "I lost the passion for acting. I was doing it for the wrong reasons. I was doing it for money."

He moved to the West Coast in 1988 to study directing at Vancouver Film School and soon was making "commercials, music videos, anything I could get my hands on."

In Vancouver, Weber met Davies, an actor who had moved here from Toronto in 1991 and often appearing in episodic TV such as *The X-Files* and *Glory Days*.

Soon, Davies and Weber were involved personally and creatively, collaborating (she wrote, he directed) on the short films *Revisited* and *Lift*. And she showed him a short story she had written back in Toronto — the story that would eventually become *Desolation Sound*.

"I was very compelled by the short story," says Weber, whose aim had been to make a feature. "We start-



Director Scott Weber and writer Glynis Davies. GERRY KAHMANN — PROVINCE

ed to riff on what could happen."

Although the story was largely transformed by the time it became a film, the essentials remained. "It had the same theme — how other people's insecurities can give us so

much pain," says Davies.

Desolation Sound is a rarity in Canadian cinema. It's a murder-mystery-thriller that has more in common with a studio film such as *What Lies Beneath* than it does a

no-budget Canadian indie. It is not, however, a typical suspense thriller, says Davies: "It's a character-driven movie disguised as a thriller."

The film features a strong ensemble but it's the local actors who really shine, in particular Helene Joy (who has since moved to Toronto) and Ian Tracey.

Next up for Weber is a sci-fi thriller, *Falling Awake*. These days, Davies spends more time writing than acting (adapting the children's trilogy *The Guests of War* into a TV miniseries).

Unlike Weber, though, Davies still has the passion for acting.

"I'll always be acting," she says. "It feeds me as a writer — be in the moment and don't deny what you're feeling."

And Davies didn't have to audition for her role as Ed Begley Jr.'s wife in *Desolation Sound*.

"I kinda knew her work," says Weber.

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