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**Ithaca's Cinemapolis and Readers' Theatre**  
**Present Screening of Neil LaBute's film IN THE COMPANY OF MEN**  
**Two Weeks Before RTI's On-Stage, Off-Book Production of LaBute's WRECKS**

On Thursday, November 6<sup>th</sup> at 7pm and in celebration of writer/director Neil LaBute, CINEMAPOLIS and THE READERS' THEATRE OF ITHACA (RTI) will jointly present the writer/director's 93-minute film IN THE COMPANY OF MEN, two weeks before RTI will present their on-stage, off-book production of the same author's 80-minute, one-man play WRECKS (running November 21-23 only). Movie tickets are available online or at the door.

RTI regularly produces LaBute's work. Said Anne Marie Cummings, RTI's founder and artistic director: *"He is not only a gifted and very clever storyteller, but his work is unique and interesting, even to those who may not necessarily like his shocking plot twists. By showing IN THE COMPANY OF MEN prior to WRECKS, audiences have an opportunity to better understand LaBute as a writer in the mediums of film and stage. And furthermore, audiences that see both IN THE COMPANY OF MEN and WRECKS will have an opportunity to see two very distinctly pieces of work by the same author."*

IN THE COMPANY OF MEN (first a play) received the Independent Spirit Award for Best First Screenplay, the Filmmaker's Trophy at the 1997 Sundance Film Festival and The New York Film Critics Award for Best First Feature. Its controversy is rooted in the misogyny of its two main characters. The film offers a mordant portrait of the American business world. The misogyny in IN THE COMPANY OF MEN is a tactic, an expression of power, a love of gamesmanship and a need to win with an amoral character – Chad – that engages in a situation that becomes vicious.

Said *The New York Times* of IN THE COMPANY OF MEN: *"A tremendously gutsy first feature...an unflinching, sharply written film."* Said *Rolling Stone*: *"A brilliant black comedy! By far the best film at Sundance! This is sure to be one of the best pictures of the year!"* And said *Premiere Magazine*: *"A Kubrickian examination of depravity that lurks in the next cubicle."*

LaBute said about his film: *"What's absolutely frightening to men like Chad is the loss of control. The American businessman – the Chad figure – has been a certain way for fifty years, and so have a lot of his dinosaur thoughts. But the last thirty years have been very volatile. We went through a period of giving lip service (to feminism) and saying, 'Yes, that's fine.' There was a shorter period, around the time IN THE COMPANY OF MEN came out, when I had the sense that people were saying, 'I really don't care what's correct. I'm tired of you telling me what I should think and I'm not going to take it. And if I can't do that overtly, I'm going to find some other way to let that feeling out.'"*

IN THE COMPANY OF MEN triggered walkouts in Cannes and at Sundance. It enraged some viewers re one of the most toxic villains in cinema, a man with a moral, psychological void at his centre who exists only to compete, to deceive, to play what he takes to be the game of life as if he alone is free of contingency. Brett Bossard, Executive Director of Cinemapolis and Cummings will give a brief introduction to viewers in the audience prior to the screening.

WRECKS is a play that LaBute wrote as a further investigation into the Greek theater and, more specifically, how the themes and plots of those plays might be utilized in a contemporary way. Performance dates for WRECKS are 11/21 and 11/22 at 8pm and 11/23 at 6:30pm. Tickets can be purchased online at [www.thereaderstheatre.com](http://www.thereaderstheatre.com) and in-person at Cinemapolis. Advanced tickets, \$10-\$12. At the door, \$12-\$15.

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