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Dark and Thought-Provoking Film 'The Verdict' Opens Feb. 27 in Orinda

By Sophie Braccini



Photo provided

the brutality is a necessary dynamic of the story and does not continue for the remainder of the film.

The bulk of the movie centers on the trial. Writer/director Jan Verheyen takes his time developing the characters before reaching the courthouse. Segers is a good man who played by the book and who collapses when justice eludes him. His lawyer, a veteran, is tough, but his heart is in the right place. De Groot's young female lawyer is also interesting, ambitious and sharp.

When the trial begins, the focus is not about whether vigilantism is right or wrong, but is about what to do with a justice system designed in such a way that terrible individuals can fall through the legal cracks.

The tone of the movie is measured and precise, without caricature; the heartfelt performance by Koen De Bouw as Segers has a lot to do with it. The actor carries the despair and tension of the broken man with depth, but without excessive pathos. As he confronts the judicial system, the audience understands his motivations, but the movie still presents a balanced perspective about justice in a civilized world where the law must prevail over one's desire for revenge.

The movie will open Feb. 27 at the Orinda Theatre and will run for a full week. The International Film Showcase movies are often presented in the venue's smaller theater and can quickly sell out, so arrive early. For information, visit <http://internationalshowcase.org>.

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[back](#)

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