

Posted: Sun., Aug. 1, 2010, 4:17pm PT

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Karlovy Vary

Jealous

Jaloux (Canada)

By BOYD VAN HOEIJ

A Les Films Seville presentation of a Prods. Kinesis production. (International Sales: E1 Entertainment, Toronto.) Produced by Stephane Tanguay, Cedric Bourdeau. Directed, edited by Patrick Demers. Screenplay, Demers, Sophie Cadieux, Maxime Denomme, Benoit Gouin.



With: Sophie Cadieux, Maxime Denomme, Benoit Gouin, Daniel Gadouas. (French dialogue)

POWERED BY 

Two lovers afraid of the seven-year itch are subjected to the cruel "Funny Games" of the person they think is their neighbor at an isolated vacation cottage in "Jealous," an effective low-budget thriller from Quebecois newcomer Patrick Demers. Pic is a coherent though unoriginal item that should interest fests focusing on independent or genre fare, with an off chance of ancillary pickups.

A quarreling and mutually suspicious couple (Maxime Denomme, Sophie Cadieux) look forward to some time in the country to sort out their issues, but they haven't counted on the seductive presence of the mysterious but attractive man (Benoit Gouin) whom they think occupies the cottage next door. He quickly ingratiates himself with the duo, with disastrous consequences. The three main thespians, co-credited with Demers for the screenplay, are convincingly naturalistic, as is their dialogue. Demers' editing, which judiciously uses cross-cutting, sustains a sense of foreboding throughout, with the general atmosphere often more nerve-wracking than what's actually onscreen. Lensing, with frequent shallow-focus shots, is well framed and makes full use of the forest and lakeside locations. "Jealous" is the onscreen title; press materials refer to the pic as "Suspicions."

Camera (color), Tobie Marier Robitaille; music, Ramachandra Borcar; production designer/costume designer, Eric Barbeau. Reviewed at Karlovy Vary Film Festival (Forum of Independents), July 9, 2010. Running time: 94 MIN.

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