

*Should all sinners be damned?*



## DESECRATION

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Young New York filmmaker Dante Tomaselli, whose haunting, atmospheric, surreal short film, *Desecration*, is making the festival rounds, remembers the critically-acclaimed film *Alice Sweet Alice* (1978) as a real family affair. "My cousin, Alfred Sole, directed it," says Tomaselli. "My father, who at the time owned a Bridal Mall, provided the communion dresses; my aunt was an extra, and it premiered in Paterson, New Jersey, my birthplace!" The circle will remain unbroken as Tomaselli gears up for the \$200,000 35mm feature-length version of *Desecration* by welcoming cousin Alfred Sole on board as the Production Designer. Tomaselli is beaming and adds, "After screening my short version of *Desecration*, Alfred believes that I would be the natural choice to direct *Alice Sweet Alice 2* from his original script. So, we'll see." Special makeup chores on the feature version of *Desecration* will be handled by Arnold Gargiulo, Jr.

The 23-minute version of *Desecration* was shot on 16mm film and Digital Video and has been screened at the Berlin Interfilm Festival, The Chicago Underground Film Fest and the San Francisco Troubadors Film Fest. Lensed on a budget of \$14,000 shortly after Tomaselli's graduation from the New York School of Visual Arts, *Desecration* is described by the enthusiastic director as "...a film that speaks to you in dream language. I'm working with symbols of the subconscious, here. Doors. Gates. Holes. Stairs. Windows. I'm trying to construct a nightmare in which we experience the protagonist's damnation."

## DANTE'S INFERNO

—by Chas Balun

