

BOOKS

beyond the traditional realms of S/M and leather sex, into a world where power—sexual power—is the only commodity.”

Such extreme language notwithstanding, the stories cover a wide range of subjects and emotions. Some are pretty accessible, even for the vanilla-minded; others are perhaps too specialized. (I smoke a pack of cigarettes a day, but I just plain did not get B.J. Barrios' stogie-steeped "Smoke.")

An air of academic legitimacy and a heap of hard-core authenticity is lent by Pat Califia's introduction, but *Rough Stuff* is definitely erotica, even when a particular tale misses the mark of an individual reader's personal perversion. While the stories themselves are nothing but "hot man-on-man action," several women are counted among the authors—proof that power, even sexual power, is essentially genderless.

(Oh, and if you don't know who Pat Califia is, you can't read this book until after you scrub the bathroom floor and wash my feet with your tongue.) —CDC

THE FRUIT MACHINE: TWENTY YEARS OF WRITINGS ON QUEER CINEMA
By Thomas Waugh. Duke University Press, 2000; \$17.95 softcover.

This is an important book more for the latter half of its title than the former. This is no *Celluloid Closet*; it chronicles 20 years of thorough, honest criticism of the ways and reasons homosexuals are portrayed on the silver screen.

The author discusses the whys and hows of sexual politics in film in a scholarly manner, yet without presumption. In fact, given the range of political and social issues explored by Thomas Waugh, the book could aptly be called *Queer Writings on Cinema*, as he points his pen far beyond strictly gay films to encompass what a movie such as, say, *Porky's* might mean for both gay and general audiences.

The *Fruit Machine's* 34 entries represent an overview of Waugh's career, which began in Toronto in the 1970s and ends up in academia, with Waugh introducing each piece from the vantage of the present, laudably chastising himself in retrospect for ones that don't pass muster.

The first (and by far the best) half of the book consists of Waugh's film writing for *The Body Politic*, a Toronto-based gay magazine that began shortly after Stonewall and folded in the mid-1980s. *The Body Politic* was a sort of anti-*Advocate*, a radical left-wing publication that, while focused on gay liberation at a time when the issue was extremely urgent, was also known for its

radically feminist, socialist and generally provocative and anti-conformist viewpoints.

It's unsurprising, then, that although Waugh is glad there is finally some cinematic representation of homosexuality emerging in the early 1970s, he harshly criticizes the exclusion of lesbians and the uneven focus upon what he terms an "Advocate lifestyle," pointing out that many minor gay films (which were major events then, though most have now been forgotten) pandered to what he viewed as the dominant materialistic, classist and often closeted audience of gay men who seemed content to remain ghettoized and apathetic to the universal struggle of all people living outside the cultural norm.

Of Waugh's *Body Politic* work, a piece about gay German filmmaker and sociopolitical commentator Rainer Werner Fassbinder is particularly enjoyable.

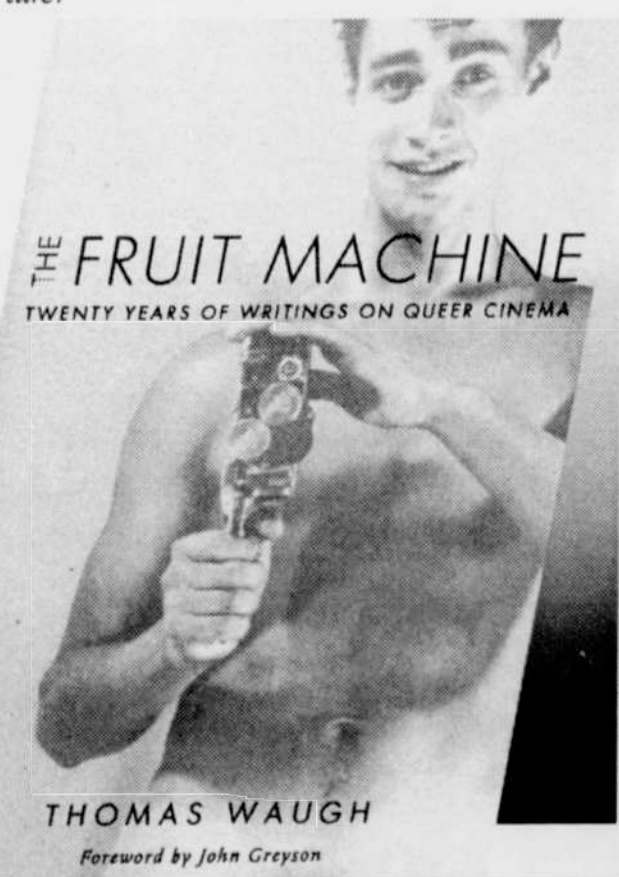
Unfortunately, the second half of the book—which finds Waugh writing less for the reader on the street than for academic journals—is bogged down by too much emphasis on poststructuralism and political correctness; Waugh seems to accept the status quo dogma of the gay establishment in the 1980s and 1990s as readily as he rejected it in the 1970s.

Still, *The Fruit Machine* is a learned work that offers objective, invaluable insights into both the history of gay film and the ever-complex struggle for gay (and human) rights.

—Christopher McQuain

■ CHRISTOPHER D. CUTTONE is a Just Out staff writer and compulsive reader.

CHRISTOPHER MCQUAIN is a Portland-based free-lance writer and tireless observer of pop culture.



It's My Pleasure

A Place of Romantic Invention

Corner of Sandy Blvd. & NE 64th
3106 NE 64th
Portland, OR 97213

*Come bask
in the elegance
of romance*

503-280-8080
www.teleport.com/~pleasure

Let Us Teach You the True Art of Finance

How to Make YOUR Money Work for You



For the entire family, whomever you may call family, we originate loans:

FHA; VA; COFI; COSI;
(5.0 index est.) non-conforming; conforming;
creative financing; credit restoration

Call us today and give us the opportunity to be the liason for you and your dream(s)

DIRECTORS INC.

Mortgage Inc.

(503)-493-2323/636-6000
www.directorsmortgage.net


**Ralph's
Hollywood
Florist**
2005 NE 42nd Avenue
Portland, OR 97213
2 Blocks North of Sandy
(503) 249-1888
(800) 843-6793

WESTOVER HEIGHTS
C L I N I C
Offering general internal
medicine and excelling
in sexual health care
Serving the community for 17 years
2330 NW Flanders
Suite 207
226-6678