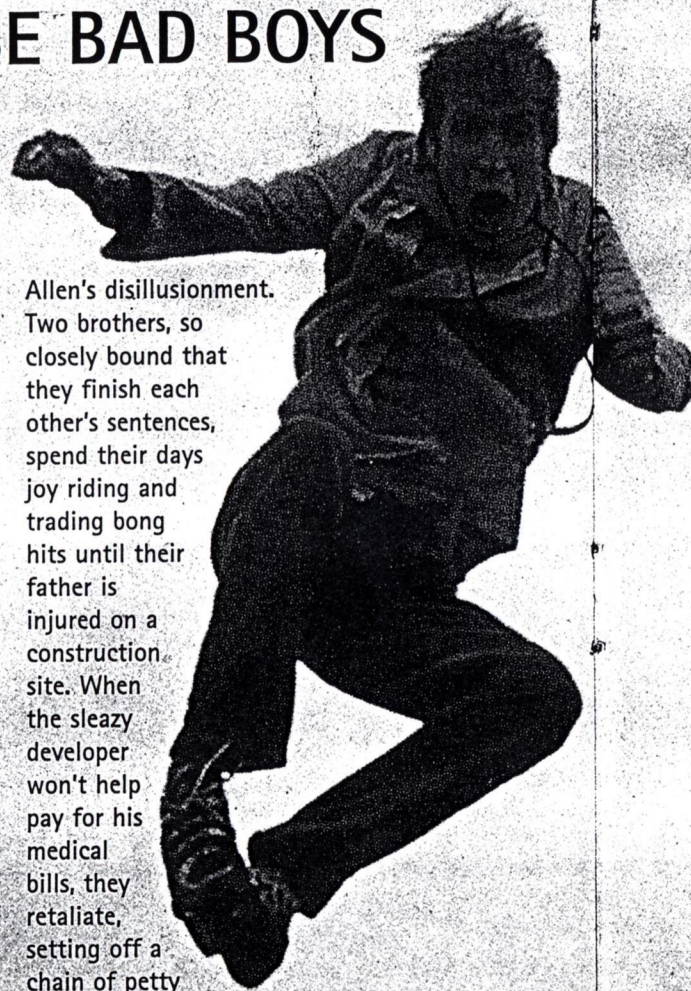


# DOUBLE TROUBLE

## BOYS WILL BE BAD BOYS

Writer/director Kevin Allen's darkly amusing *TWIN TOWN* has several strikes against it. His tale of revenge in the two-bit underworld of Swansea, Wales is filled with amoral characters; it strikes a nihilistic tone when the British press is licking its chops over censoring movies it deems unworthy; and worst of all, *TWIN TOWN* has multiple connections to the team behind the cult hit *SHALLOW GRAVE* and the wildly successful *TRAINSPOTTING*. Director Danny Boyle and Producer Andrew MacPherson are executive producers of *TWIN TOWN* but as Allen ruefully notes, their participation in his \$3.3 million debut is a "double edged sword."

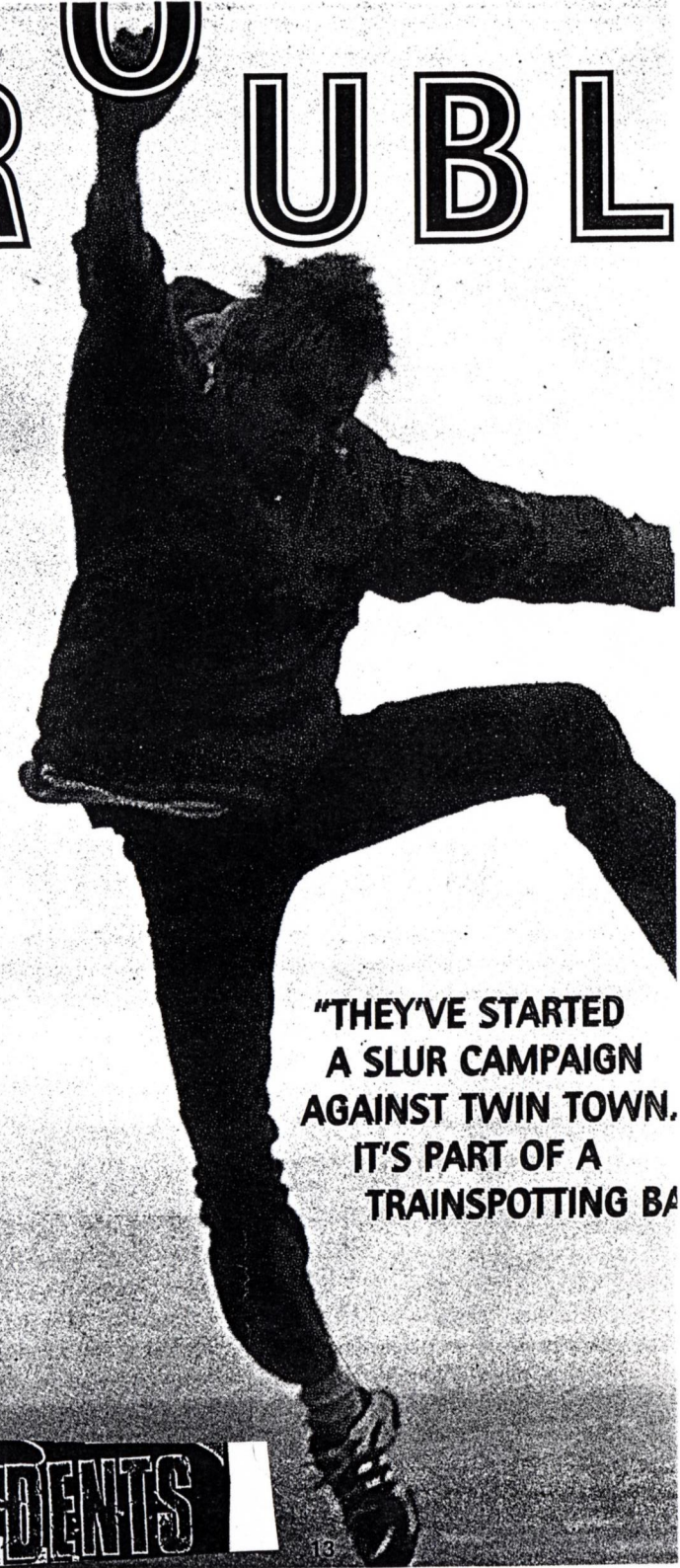
"They've started a slur campaign against *TWIN TOWN* in 'The Sunday Times,'" laughs Allen. "It's all part of an Andrew and Danny *TRAINSPOTTING* backlash, which I am no doubt going to be a part of." He quotes one article written before the film's U.K. release which describes it as facing "a wave of criticism from politicians, psychiatrists and teachers. Like who?" asks the astonished director. "No one's seen it yet." Allen has made a number of documentaries for the BBC, including one about a turf war between drug dealers selling crack and heroin from ice cream trucks in poor neighborhoods. "I met policemen who were basically thugs with monthly salaries," says the director, who became convinced that the man jailed for the most violent crime in that battle was framed by the police. *TWIN TOWN* resonates with



Allen's disillusionment.

Two brothers, so closely bound that they finish each other's sentences, spend their days joy riding and trading bong hits until their father is injured on a construction site. When the sleazy developer won't help pay for his medical bills, they retaliate, setting off a chain of petty acts that quickly escalates into murderous revenge. "There are no winners here," says Allen. "I remember a woman at Polygram (one of the film's backers) who read the script and said, 'I love it! But could you make the ending happy?' Well, no actually. No one's a winner and that's what it's like in real life."

BY MICHAEL GILTZ



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**INDEPENDENTS**