

a homeless man sleeping in a yuppie park because "it's important to live in a good neighbourhood" — and the drama derives not from whether they did it, but whether the punishment fits the crime.

Though sometimes plagued by overwrought oration — albeit never from Alice, played by understated star Cara Pifko — *Wonderland* does an impressive job scratching our city's seedy underbelly.

THIS IS WONDERLAND AIRS WEDNESDAYS, 8PM ON CBC.

Attack of the killer beans

Black Coffee is, quite simply, the "epic story of a beverage."

As recounted by caffeine-obsessed Montrealer Irene Angelico, this three-part doc follows your morning eye-opener's sixth-century discovery by an Ethiopian goat and

subsequent spread through Arabia to its role in the enslavement of Indonesia, the French Revolution and the oppression of Latin America and Africa — not to mention its amusing effect on the sex drives of Englishmen before they switched to tea.

Black Coffee also covers coffee's impact on colonialism, globalization and rainforests, the rise of overpriced Starbucks and the fight for "fair trade" beans.

Though the claim that coffee is "the dark medium through which social, sexual, economic and political life evolves" seems overblown, keep in mind coffee is not only the most widely taken legal drug — 500 billion cups consumed annually — but also the world's second most-traded commodity... after oil.

PART ONE OF BLACK COFFEE RE-AIRS NOV 20 AT 10PM ON TVO, CONTINUING NOV 23 AND NOV 30.