



Windows Media - Fast : Slow

A family's spiral of self-destruction and depression in the years following the death of their eldest son...

Margaret: David:

BITTER AND TWISTED

Review by Margaret Pomeranz | Rated **M**

A friend in New York emailed me that he'd seen a new Australian film at the Tribeca Film Festival and had been very impressed.

It was BITTER AND TWISTED, an independent first film from writer/director and co-star Christopher Weekes.

It's about a family consumed by the death of their oldest son Liam three years earlier. The

PRODUCTION DETAILS

Release date:

18/09/2008

Release details:

Limited Staggered Release. Check daily newspapers for screening details.

Classification: M

Duration: 85 mins

Genre: Drama

Director:

Christopher Weekes

Lead actor: Noni Hazlehurst

Cast: Steve

Rodgers, Leeanna Walsman, Christopher Weekes, Matthew Newton, Gary Sweet, Rhys Muldoon, Basia A'Hern, Penne Hackforth-Jones, Sam Haft and Andrea Moore

Producer: Bridget Callow

Screenplay:

Christopher Weekes

Music: Brian Cachia

Distributor:

Australian Film Syndicate

Language: English

Country: Australia

father Jordan, (STEVE RODGERS), has withdrawn emotionally from his wife Penny, (NONI HAZELHURST) and she's hurting.

Meanwhile son Ben, (CHRISTOPHER WEEKES) is obsessed with Indigo, (LEANNA WALSMAN), Liam's former girlfriend, who is in the dying phase of an affair with a married man, GARY SWEET.

There's real talent in this film, it's been impressively directed by Weekes, and the performances make you realise the depth of acting talent in this country.

NONI HAZELHURST is just astounding as this woman who can't bear the thought of not being loved; not being wanted.

STEVE RODGERS is heartbreaking as Jordan. LEANNE WALSMAN makes Indigo so real, she's wonderful and MATTHEW NEWTON is terrific as Ben's friend and potential lover. And I mustn't forget RHYS MULDOON who does such a good job playing Jordan's boss.

If I have a qualm about the film it is that the screenplay needed just a bit more glue to bring all the elements together.

Despite that, it's a fine debut from this talented new filmmaker.

FURTHER COMMENTS

MARGARET: David, what did you think?

DAVID: I think it's good. I really do. I mean I didn't feel that it needed any more glue, as you say. I mean I thought it's a very understated film. It asks the viewer to fill in a

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Caramel

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David ★★★★★

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Margaret ★★★★★
David ★★★★★

The Tender Hook

Margaret ★★★★★
David ★★★★★

Angus, Thongs And Perfect Snogging

Margaret ★★★★★
David ★★★★★

Bitter And Twisted

Margaret ★★★★★
David ★★★★★

Wall - E

Margaret ★★★★★
David ★★★★★

lot of the feelings and events that are going on.

There's long, still passages with no dialogue. So it makes the viewer work a little bit, I guess, but the performances are so beautiful and it's so well shot and framed and...

MARGARET: Yeah. Yeah.

DAVID: I mean I enjoy a film like this. I enjoy a film about relationships which is not obvious; which is subtle in all respects.

MARGARET: Do you know I had one other problem with it and that was the casting of Steve Rodgers. And he is such a fine performer, no - but he seemed to me too young for that role.

DAVID: I know what you mean, yes.

MARGARET: And so I thought this is the father of a, you know, 20-something.

DAVID: Do you know I thought that at the beginning and then he is so good and really very, very good...

MARGARET: Yeah.

DAVID: ...that it didn't bother me after a while. I just went with it and I think this shows a tremendous amount of talent and I hope people go and see it.

