



NEWS REVIEWS VIDEO BLOGS CHARTS FEATURES PEOPLE PROFILES AWARDS FESTIVALS CAREERS PHOTOS CALENDARS

GO Powered By BMW Contact us Newsletter signup Subscribe! Digital Variety Log in Log in

FILM

Posted: Mon., Apr. 28, 2008, 10:11pm PT TALK BACK! DIGG EMAIL PRINT CONTACT RSS

Tribeca Bitter & Twisted ((Australia))

By ALISSA SIMON

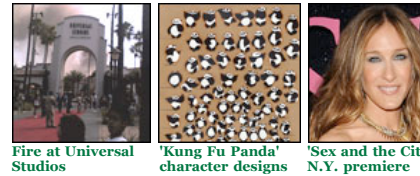
A Casp production in association with Odin's Eye Entertainment. (International sales: Odin's Eye Entertainment, Moore Park, Australia.) Produced by Bridget Callow. Executive producer, Michael Favalle. Directed, written by Christopher Weekes.

With: Noni Hazelhurst, Steve Rodgers, Leanna Walsman, Rhys Muldoon, Penne Hackforth-Jones, Christopher Weekes, Matthew Newton, Gary Sweet.

Read other reviews about this film



FILM PHOTOS



ALL FILM GALLERIES > MOVIE PREMIERES >

A Sydney suburb is home to lives of quiet desperation in Oz director-writer Christopher Weekes' debut feature "Bitter & Twisted." Shot on a shoestring, this great-looking item attests to the visual talents of the helmer and his mostly tyro team. However, despite game perfs from a well-known cast, weak scripting and sketchy character development leave too many holes to ultimately convince or compel. Auds feel the characters' pain, but it's difficult to care. Pic's likely to find most fans in ancillary.

After three years trapped in a self-destructive spiral following the unexpected death of a loved one, the Lombard family (Noni Hazelhurst as menopausal mother, Steve Rodgers as obese car salesman father, helmer Weekes as possibly gay son) and neighbor Indigo (Leanna Walsman), make tentative moves toward breaking free. Creative surmounting of budgetary restrictions makes the pic's first third the strongest as the short, beautifully designed scenes, many wordless, establish the isolated characters. Remaining two-thirds bog down in dialogue-heavy, extended exposition. Idiosyncratic color choices, brilliant production design and quirkily fatalistic framing of shots recall Jane Campion's debut. Although it's no "Sweetie," "Bitter & Twisted" nonetheless reps a notable calling card.

Camera (color, Super 16-to-HD) Sam Collins; editor, Simon Wright; music, Brian Cachia; production designer, Phil Shearer; costume designer, Loretta Egan. Reviewed at Tribeca Film Festival (Discovery), April 25, 2008. Running time: 88 MIN.

Variety is striving to present the most thorough review database. To report inaccuracies in review credits, please click here. We do not currently list below-the-line credits, although we hope to include them in the future. Please note we may not respond to every suggestion. Your assistance is appreciated.

Web Exclusive TALK BACK! DIGG EMAIL PRINT CONTACT RSS

Links posted in this story: Bitter & Twisted, Bitter & Twisted, Bridget Callow, Christopher Weekes, Gary Sweet, Jane Campion, Matt Newton, Michael Favalle, Noni Hazelhurst, Penne Hackforth-Jones, Phil Shearer, Rhys Muldoon, Steve Rodgers, Sweetie, The Film

TALKBACK:

VIEW ALL DISCUSSIONS | COMMENT ON THIS REVIEW

Have an opinion about this article? Be the first to comment

SUMMER BLOCKBUSTERS

Variety has everything you want to know about this summer's biggest movies.

May Blockbuster Movies

- Iron Man
Speed Racer
Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian

Variety 10 innovators TO WATCH. Presented by: BMW VIDEO > FULL REPORT >

- Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian
- Indiana Jones 4 - The Kingdom of the Crystal Skull

June Blockbuster Movies

- Kung Fu Panda
- The Incredible Hulk
- Get Smart
- Wall-E
- Wanted

RECENT REVIEWS:

Dying Breed - 4/28/2008 7:27:41 PM

SqueezeBox! - 4/28/2008 7:01:23 PM

Trucker - 4/28/2008 6:45:44 PM

Run for Your Life - 4/28/2008 12:33:12 PM

Hidden in Plain Sight - 4/26/2008 1:00:00 AM

Kassim the Dream - 4/25/2008 6:00:00 PM

Ads By Google

50 Hotels in Cannes
Book your hotel in Cannes online. Good availability and great rates!
www.booking.com

"Download Any TV Series"
Download Your Favorite TV Series. Over 550 Million Episodes & Movies!
www.TVDownloadHome.com/series

Neighbours Tv Show
Who was responsible for Chris Knights exit on Neighbours TV Show?
Whats-Your-Vote.com/Neighbours



Q What are the top 3 things affecting our industry today?

A. Xiomara - Economy, Creativity (Originality) and Contracts are what's affecting our industry in my op... [more >](#)

Search for People in The Biz

www.Variety.com/TheBiz



-- Advertisement --

Looking to reach job seekers?

Featured Jobs

Executive Assistant - VH1
New York, NY

Director- Digital Marketing - Comedy Central
New York, NY

PROMOTION & MARKETING MANAGER - WGBB-TV, the ABC & FOX affiliates
Springfield, MA

Marketing Manager (FSN Ohio) - Fox Networks Group
Cincinnati, OH



KEYWORDS:

CITY, STATE:

THEBIZ.VARIETY.COM >

20,000 SHOWBIZ PROFILES (AND GROWING)

[SUBSCRIBE](#) [LOGIN](#) [ABOUT US](#) [ADVERTISE](#) [CONTACT US](#) [HELP](#) [SITE INDEX](#)

RELATED SITES: [Variety Asia](#) [Variety Japan](#) [Video Business](#) [ContentAgenda](#) [Stylephile](#) [LA 411](#) [NY 411](#) [Entertainment Jobs](#)

© 2008 Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. Use of this website is subject to its Terms & Conditions of Use. View our Privacy Policy.

MEDIA & PUBLISHING:
[Variety](#) | [Variety Asia](#) | [Variety Japan](#) | [LA 411](#) | [New York 411](#) | [Video Business](#) | [ContentAgenda](#) | [Broadcasting & Cable](#) | [Multichannel News](#) | [Publishers Weekly](#) | [Library Journal](#) | [School Library Journal](#) | [Criticas](#) | [Tradeshaw Week](#)

MANUFACTURING:
[Design News](#) | [Control Engineering](#) | [Plant Engineering](#) | [Purchasing](#) | [Purchasing Data](#) | [Logistics Management](#) | [Industrial Distribution](#) | [Supply Chain Management Review](#) | [Modern Materials Handling](#) | [Manufacturing Business Technology](#) | [Kellysearch](#)

SUBSCRIPTIONS:
All Magazine and eNewsletter Subscriptions

BUSINESS & PRINTING:
[DM2-DecisionMaker](#) | [Zibb](#) | [Packaging Digest](#) | [Graphics Arts Monthly](#) | [Graphics Arts Blue Book](#) | [Converting](#) | [Expert Business Source](#) | [HotFrog USA](#) | [The Industry Measure](#)

GIFTS & FURNISHINGS:
[Furniture Today](#) | [Home Textiles Today](#) | [Home Accents Today](#) | [Casual Living](#) | [Kids Today](#) | [Gifts & Decorative Accessories](#) | [Playthings](#) | [Jlrs, Circ, Keystone](#)

HOSPITALITY:
[Hotels](#) | [R&I](#) | [Chain Leader](#) | [Foodservice Equipment & Supplies](#)

ELECTRONICS:
[EDN](#) | [Twice](#) | [Electronic News](#) | [Electronic Business](#) | [Test & Measurement World](#) | [Semiconductor International](#) | [Instat](#)

BUILDING & CONSTRUCTION:
[Associated Construction Publications](#) | [Buildcore](#) | [Building Design & Construction](#) | [Building Team Forecast](#) | [Construction Equipment](#) | [Consulting Specifying Engineer](#) | [Custom Builder](#) | [Daily Commercial News](#) | [Housing Giants](#) | [HousingZone](#) | [Interior Design](#) | [Journal of Commerce](#) | [Professional Builder](#) | [Professional Remodeler](#) | [Reed Connect](#) | [Reed Construction Bulletin](#) | [Reed Construction Data](#) | [Reed First Source](#) | [RS Means](#)