



Home

Movie Reviews

Interviews

Specials

The Classic

Movie News

Download Video

About

Viewers' Poll

Connect with
At the Movies

Follow
@atthetvshows

Follow us on
Instagram

Wasted On The Young



Flash version 9 or above required to view video: [Get flash.](#)

When a high school party goes dangerously off the rails, one teenager finds that revenge is just a computer click away.

Margaret: ★★★★★☆ David: ★★★★★☆

Wasted On The Young

Rated MA

Review by Margaret Pomeranz

New Australian films are in plentiful supply at the moment, this week sees the release of Ben C Lucas' WASTED ON THE YOUNG, a reference to the Oscar Wilde quote about youth. It's set in the world of a privileged private school in Perth where Zack, ALEX RUSSELL, and his cohorts Brookie, T. J. POWER and Shay, PATRICK CULLEN - call the shots. They're champions of the swimming club. Zack's stepbrother Darren is the studious type. When pretty blonde Xandrie, ADELAIDE CLEMENS, shows an interest in Darren, Zack's ego is pricked. He decides to short circuit that relationship at a drug-fuelled party he gives.

When a second tragedy happens Darren plots his revenge.

This is a most accomplished debut by Ben Lucas. The film looks extraordinary, Dan Freeney's cinematography's terrific, giving the film a slightly surreal look that perfectly suits this world without any adults at all. As Xandrie says at one point, 'I don't know whether you've noticed but this place isn't real - it's like a parallel universe.'

And the use of sound adds to that feeling of unreality. The young performers, whom I hadn't seen before, were just stunning. Adelaide Clemens is heading for stardom, she handles a difficult role with such grace. But I was also impressed by Alex Russell and T. J. Power. If there is a criticism of the film it is that it takes you a while to get the hang of the differing time frames at the beginning and my technological dumbness is so extreme it took me a couple of minutes to really get into the ending.

This dramatic tale of that sense of entitlement that some people have to get away with any violation, and revenge via modern media is an absolute winner for me.

Further comments

MARGARET: David.

DAVID: There's so much talent here. I think, as you've said, the direction, the cinematography, the actors from an unseen cast to me, all very strong and very good. My problem is one of confusion. I think maybe sometimes filmmakers get so close to the material during the editing phase, that they don't step back and see that for somebody seeing it for the first time, does this make sense? Can you make that transition? And I'm afraid there were moments when I couldn't. The scenes which are supposed to be what someone is thinking and we see it with as much literalness as we're seeing everything else, there's no differentiation between a thought and a real action.

MARGARET: But, you see, I didn't have any problem after, say, 10 minutes figuring out time zones and I think the pitch of this film that is just beyond reality lets it get away with that really well. I did not have...

DAVID: It was a problem for me. It really was.

MARGARET: Well, that's a shame because...

DAVID: It's not a huge problem because I can see the strengths of the film. I just found it unnecessarily confusing and that was what pulled me back from it.

MARGARET: I just - I love the way it's shot. Those swimming sequences.

DAVID: Oh, it's beautiful.

MARGARET: They're sort of like really surreal and almost ominous.

DAVID: It's very, very strikingly done. I agree with you.

MARGARET: Yes. I'm giving it four stars. I think it's another Australian talent and the trouble is that he's gone to Los Angeles already. We no sooner produce them than they're stolen from us.

Name: Bobby S 06 Mar 2011 6:14:33pm
Rating: ★★★★★☆
Innovative cinematography through use of closeups which increase the sense of drama and moment. Creditable performances by these unknown Australian actors. Adelaide Clemens has poise and presence and Darren reminds somewhat of Gael Garcia Bernal, with his looks and moody presence.
The themes of private school privilege, bullying and unrestrained youth are familiar and well communicated.

Name: Mark Hooper 02 Apr 2011 12:43:53pm
Rating: ★★★★★☆
I heard that the movie was not doing great business which is in my view a shame. The film strikes at a crucial juncture in Australian Culture - and resonates with my impressions of that time in my life.
The relentless aggressive, surface-filliciation and the brutality of some of the attitudes of that stage of life are seldom dealt with at all in Australian films at least not with the lively emotional verisimilitude of this film. Its hard to get dismissive brittleness and humanity to occupy the same place and still have a somewhat human flow among the characters.

Name: Mr Mink 23 Mar 2011 7:44:50pm
Rating: ★★★★★☆
This is a strikingly well made film - vision and sound all excellent. You can see why LA might have poached the new director. Like David I found aspects of the story line confusing, but to some extent this mirrored the drug-addled reality/confusion in it. It particularly wandered towards the end and I agree with David probably needed an outside voice to lighten it a little. Otherwise it was suitably relentless, driven by suitable soundtrack. A real original - unlike Griff the Original seen the day before

Name: Leigh 25 Jul 2011 7:19:50am
Rating: ★★☆☆☆
Watching Wasted on the Young feels like you are watching an experiment in filmmaking. I admire Director Ben C Lucas for daring to be different with his approach to a story that needs to be handled with care. Unfortunately, striking cinematography and a pulse-pounding score cannot overcome the shoddy screenplay and very unclear manner the film's subject has been conveyed. By the end, the film disconnects itself from the viewer and is mostly incomprehensible. The reckless direction doesn't give this unknown, young cast much of a chance at digging deeper into their characters.

Name: Adam Ferguson 21 Apr 2011 8:57:10am
Rating: ★★★★★☆
Wonderfully made Aussie film. Great acting, exciting story and concept, beautifully shot, looks expensive (but wasn't). Excellent!

Title: Wasted On The Young
Director: Ben C Lucas
Producer: Janelle Landers, Adam O'Shane
Cast: Alex Russell, Alex Russell, Patrick Cullen, Adelaide Clemens
Classification: MA
Duration: 97 mins
Country: United States

Release date: 03/02/2011
Release details: Wide national release. Check newspapers for screening dates or contact the distributor for further details.
Genre: Drama
Lead actors: Oliver Ackland
Screenplay: Ben C Lucas
Music: The Transients
Distributors: Paramount Pictures Australia
Language: English

Movies and interviews from 2 March 2011

[All That Jazz \(The Classic\)](#)

[Wasted On The Young Interview](#)

[Wasted On The Young](#)

Margaret: ★★★★★☆

David: ★★★★★☆

[The Adjustment Bureau](#)

Margaret: ★★★★★☆

David: ★★★★★☆

[The Girl Who Kicked The Hornet's Nest](#)

Margaret: ★★★★★☆

David: ★★★★★☆