



Josh Jarman

Review by Adam Weeks

Josh Jarman is the tale of a playwright, the titular character of Josh, played by Australian actor Marcus Graham, who struggles to find a wide audience for his plays.

Despite everyone around him seeming to love his writing, he longs for a shot at the big time, opening in a big theatre, receiving a standing ovation at the end of the performance, and becoming as important and notable as his favourite author, Harold Stalinger.

Josh gets his big opportunity when he meets Sasha (Kestie Morassi), and after winding up in bed with her, discovers her father is none other than big shot producer, Stan Billows (Kym Gyngell), who, as long as he continues to date his daughter, agrees to put all of his resources behind Josh's new play.

In the meantime, Josh struggles with his new found feelings for next door neighbour, Maxine (Daniella Farinacci), and finds out his room mate Russ (Damien Richardson) is getting involved in some interesting money making ventures.

But as the powers that be begin to exert their influence over Josh's life, the script, the casting and seemingly everything else involved, Josh begins to wonder if the fame he is looking for is all that it is cracked up to be.

I was very surprised by *Josh Jarman* to be completely honest. I had heard mixed reviews leading up to my viewing, but I found it to be a very easy film to watch - and like. The cast all take on solid work with their parts, with Marcus Graham seemingly invoking the nerdiest, most foppish version of Hugh Grant that anyone could muster, and not surprisingly (given his impressive work in the past), he manages to pull off a dangerous choice in a very classy way.

Kestie Morassi (*Wolf Creek*) puts in a suitably sexy performance as the borderline nymphomaniac Sasha, Daniella Farinacci (pictured: right) maintains a sweet back and forth with Marcus throughout the run time, and has one of the funniest (and potentially embarrassing) afflictions seen in quite a while.

Kym Gyngell on the other hand, while doing a sound job technically with the part of uber-producer Stan, feels a little off to me, and I can't help coming away with the feeling that maybe someone along the lines of a Sam Neill could have perhaps done more with the part. Either that, or I can't get the good old days of 'The Comedy Company' out of my head enough to really give him a shot in the part.

The standout, and genuine star of the film however, is Damien Richardson as the down and out actor/room mate. Damien is just an absolute class act in this, and is responsible for a brilliant line towards the end of the movie that had me cracking up. Someone should definitely get this guy in their next big comedy, because he is fantastic in *Josh*.

As I've said, *Josh Jarman* is a very easy movie to like, and aside from slightly distracting musical choices throughout the first half hour or so, it plays pretty smoothly from beginning to end.

It's no strain to see the ending coming from a mile off, but sometimes a trip to the cinema doesn't need to result in an intellectual discussion of the mechanics of it all afterwards, but rather the fact that you sat down and watched a decent movie.

Josh Jarman fits the bill very well.

4 out of 5



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Australian release: Thursday the 10th of November, 2005

Cast: Marcus Graham, Kestie Morassi, Damien Richardson, Daniela Farinacci, Kim Gyngell.

Director: Pip Mushin.

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