

**LEEDS
ARTS RESEARCH
CENTRE**

DISCLOSURE

MARK CAREY

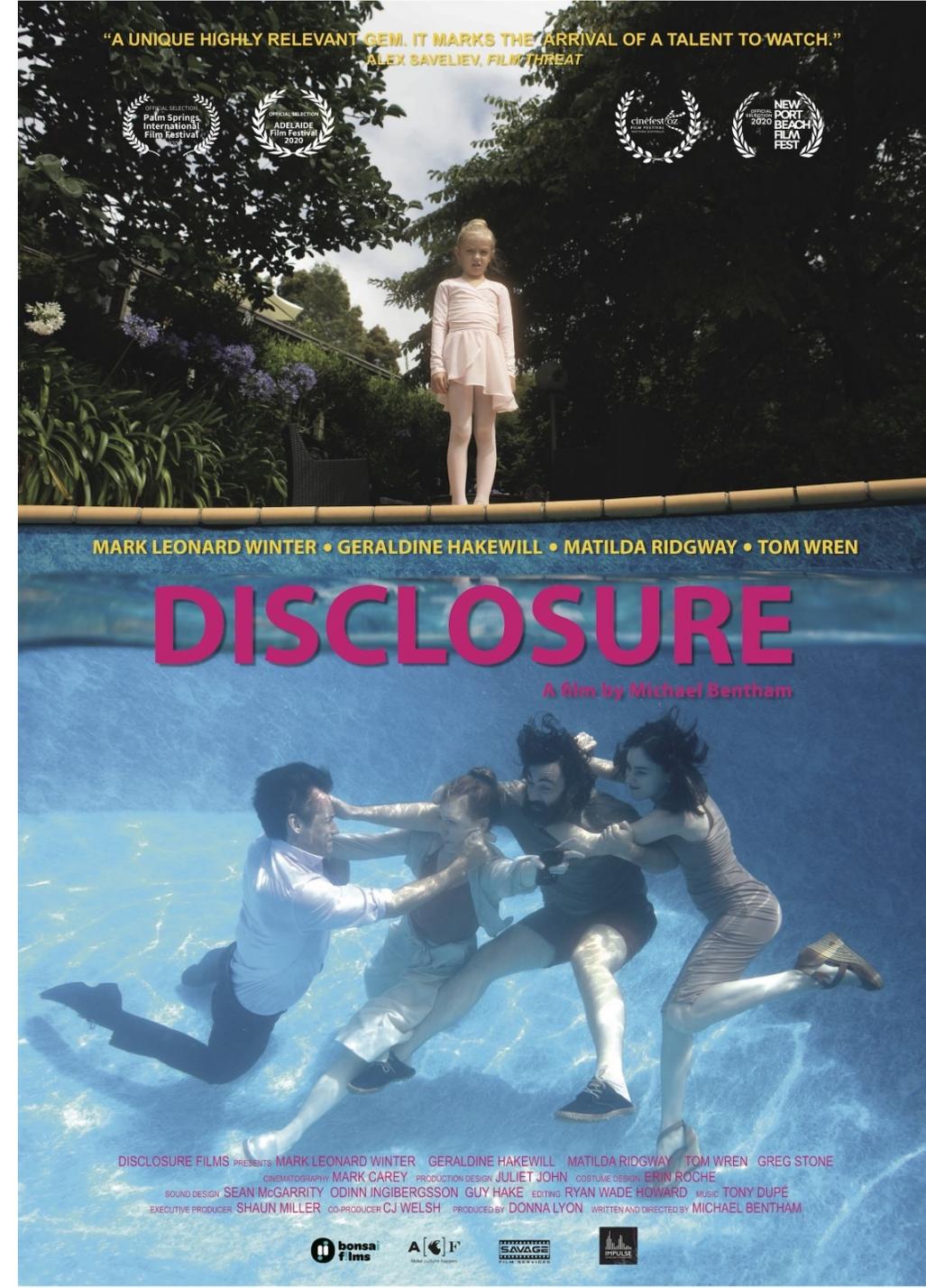
OUTPUT INFORMATION

Title:
Disclosure

Output Type:
Q – Digital or Visual Media

Date of Publication:
2020

Output allocation:
Filmmaking practice research



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION STATEMENT

Disclosure (2020) is a full-length feature film produced between 2017-2019. As a lead collaborator, Carey researched, devised, and produced the output in collaboration with a small team from Melbourne University.

Despite being a widely documented issue, the general public is relatively unaware of child-on-child sexual abuse. The project's primary objective was to explore how dramatic narrative construction might be able to reach and communicate to wider audiences the complexity of this issue and its connection to the availability of online pornography. *Disclosure* uses fictional narratives and constructed characters drawing on sociological studies to create a three-act dramatic structure illustrating the impact of this societal issue.

Carey constructed *Disclosure's* cinematography to create a confrontational effect by shifting the audiences' perspective from that of an outside-observer to a witness present within key scenes; bringing audiences face-to-face with this challenging subject. Carey employed visual narrative strategies including breaking the fourth wall, and framing to reduce visual cuts, containment of the whole action, crossing the line, and hidden tightening. These techniques and structures thrust the audience into the heart of a story about complex characters.

Disclosure premiered at the Palm Springs International Film Festival (2020) and was screened at: Adelaide Film Festival; Newport Beach Film Festival; and CinefestOZ Film Festival. VOD distribution of *Disclosure* was secured with Breaking Glass Pictures (North America) and Bonsai Films (Australia and New Zealand). *Disclosure* was also presented by Carey as a case study at BFI London (2018).

Reviewers compared *Disclosure* to the works of Michelangelo Antonioni, Richard Linklater and Lynne Ramsay and described the film as: "Simple, relevant, and distressing, *Disclosure* is one of the best films we've seen so far in 2020" - *Cinema Smack*; "*Disclosure* lays out the cycles of hurt that we inflict on ourselves and each other with sober clarity" - *Film Daze*.

Trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LxAqEMbZTzA>

FILM INFO

Duration 84min

Format 2k

Lead cast

Geraldine Hakewill (Bek Chalmers)

https://www.imdb.com/name/nm3507755/?ref_=tt_cl_t_1

Tom Wren (Joel Chalmers)

https://www.imdb.com/name/nm1621864/?ref_=nv_sr_srsq_0

Mark Leonard Winter (Danny Bowman)

https://www.imdb.com/name/nm2413529/?ref_=tt_cl_t_2

Matilda Ridgeway (Emily Bowman)

https://www.imdb.com/name/nm4109267/?ref_=tt_cl_t_3



★★★★

"A unique, highly relevant gem, it marks the arrival of a talent to watch."

Alex Saveliev **FILM
THREAT**

Matilda Ridgeway in Disclosure; "It's not comfortable watch. It is not something where it is very clear to see who you are for and what you should be thinking ... it really provokes the audience to educate themselves about this issue and make up their own minds".



Geraldine Hakewill playing the childhood abuse survivor Bek Chalmers in Disclosure.



Joel Chalmers (Tom Wren)
& Danny Bowman (Mark Leonard-
Winter) confront questions of
colonial theft, trauma-scape and
community in the creek.



“We made this film because we want to help change policy, by raising the profile of the pressing issue of child-on-child abuse, and the inadequate institutional responses to this escalating problem”

Michael Bentham on Life Elsewhere Arts and Culture radio show in the USA & on internet podcast/radio.



“Disturbing in the best possible way, this intense drama takes place in a lovely, suburban Australian home, where two couples have their friendship detonated when an act of violence between children unleashes staggering revelations. Bentham’s four central actors are very convincing, especially a chilling turn by Geraldine Hakewill, whose buried rage inevitably scorches the screen.”

Huffpost / Medium (Brad Schrieber)
https://medium.com/@bradschreiber_29377/best-of-2019-palm-springs-film-festival-b7773ace406a



“A unique, highly relevant gem that revolves around a complex quandary, summarized in the film’s opening quote: “There are two sides to every story, and then there is the truth.”

FILM THREAT (Alex Saveliev)
<https://filmthreat.com/reviews/disclosure/>



“In a narrative involving four middle-aged adults in Australia (filmed by Mark Carey in Victoria), a conversation begins in a civil way but breaks down”.

"Bentham does a smashing job in building tension."

“The film at 85 minutes does not overstate its time. It features compact editing, colorful cinematography, and a quartet of citizens downunder who recall the antics of George and Martha’s baiting Nick and Honey in “Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf.”

ShockYa! (Harvey Karten)

<https://www.shockya.com/news/2020/06/21/disclosure-movie-review/>

GG

“There are some really good things happening in Disclosure, making it one of the most exciting debuts of the year thus far. By no means is this a particularly pleasant film, but it is an essential watch.”

Disappointment Reviews (Sean Boelman)
<https://www.disappointmentmedia.com/reviews/disclosure-a-timely-but-tough-to-swallow-thriller>

GG

“Simple, relevant, and distressing, Disclosure is one of the best films we’ve seen so far in 2020”

Cinema Smack (Jeremie Sabourin)
<http://www.cinemasmack.com/indie-film-review-disclosure/>

GG

“Confrontational, unflinching and inconveniently truthful, you’ll be thinking about Disclosure for a long time to come”

The Movie Waffler (Benjamin Poole)

<http://www.themoviewaffler.com/2020/06/disclosure-2020-film-review-michael-bentham.html#more>

GG

“Disclosure lays out the cycles of hurt that we inflict on ourselves and each other with sober clarity”

Film Daze (Joshua Sorensen)

<https://filmdaze.net/disclosure-review-an-incisive-examination-of-collective-trauma/>



“This Australian drama is a little firecracker in which a complex tangle of hot-button issues blow-up in the characters faces....._Disclosure is a deviously entertaining tale in which every character viewpoint is understandable—yet at the same time, you totally get why these people want to throttle each other.”

Denis Harvey, 48hills, San Francisco

“And of course, there’s the big picture here, the collective response to trauma and how the undermining, not to mention denial of pain, can quickly tear a community asunder, and that veneer of politeness cracks wide open. We are all hanging on by mere threads.”

GG

“The seemingly insolvable domestic dilemma in the plot is likely to haunt viewers long afterward.”

Video Librarian (Charles Cassidy)

<https://videolibrarian.com/reviews/film/disclosure/>

GG

“The four actors are superb, delivering nuanced performances in very long takes.”

Screenhub (Rochelle Siemienowicz)

<https://www.screenhub.com.au/news-article/news/film/rochelle-siemienowicz/parental-guidance-recommended-michael-bentham-on-making-disclosure-260964>



'Full Disclosure: A feature film as a learning environment and the effects of gender on opportunity with specific reference to cinematography'.

FILM FESTIVALS

Palm Springs International Film Festival, California (World Premiere).

2-13 January 2020

Gold Coast Film Festival, Australia.

Nominated for Best Independent Feature

15-26 April 2020

Festival du Cinema, La Foa, New Caledonia

21-30 August 2021

CinefestOZ, Australia.

23-30 August 2020

Newport Beach Film Festival, California.

1-11 October 2020

Adelaide Film Festival, Australia.

14-25 October 2020

DISTRIBUTION

North American Video on Demand distribution through Breaking Glass Pictures. June 2020.

Platforms: Amazon, iTunes, Google Play, Vudu, Fandango, Vimeo, DVD.

<https://www.bgpics.com/movies/disclosure/>

Australia and New Zealand Cinema and VOD distribution through Bonsai Films.

Opening at Cameo Cinemas, beginning with an advance screening at Cameo Belgrave, Melbourne on 21 February 2021, and Nova Cinemas from March.

Disclosure poster. ““And of course, there’s the big picture here, the collective response to trauma and how the undermining, not to mention denial of pain, can quickly tear a community asunder, and that veneer of politeness cracks wide open. We are all hanging on by mere threads.” AWM

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"This Australian drama is a little firecracker in which a complex tangle of hot-button issues blow up in the characters' faces."

Dennis Harvey, *48hills*

★★★★★
"Confrontational, unflinching and inconveniently truthful, you'll be thinking about *Disclosure* for a long time to come."

Benjamin Poole, *The Movie Waffler*

PRESS & MEDIA

9 Australian films we can't wait to see in 2019

<https://cinemaaustralia.com.au/2019/01/21/9-australian-films-we-cant-wait-to-see-in-2019/>

Trailer revealed for Australian psychodrama Disclosure

<https://cinemaaustralia.com.au/2019/12/11/trailer-revealed-for-australian-psychodrama-disclosure/>

Life Elsewhere Arts and Culture radio show with Norman B on WNRM, WMNF, NWCZ & Cornucopia radio stations in USA as well as Internet Radio Network and on Mixcloud.

<https://lifeelsewhere.co/2020/07/24/a-conversation-with-michael-bentham/>

"We made this film because we want to help change policy, by raising the profile of the pressing issue of child-on-child abuse, and the inadequate institutional responses to this escalating problem". Michael Bentham.

"Disclosure is one of the most original and satisfying films I've seen since Parasite."Norman B.

Cinema Australia Podcast #57 | Michael Bentham and Matilda Ridgway

<https://cinemaaustralia.com.au/2021/02/11/cinema-australia-podcast-57-michael-bentham-and-matilda-ridgway/>

"The way that Michael and Mark shot it sort of leaps of the page, the subtle looks, nods, body language, you feel that there's a depth of relationship there" (between the onscreen characters). Matilda Ridgway

"The cinematographer Mark Carey and I sat down, and we really wanted to find a way with the kind of limitations that this kind of independent film has find a way of giving it a strong style and a strong look. So, we very early on decided not to attempt the traditional way of coverage, so that's shooting your establishing shots, mid-shots, close-up for climaxes and that kind of thing which is very hard on time, it eats time up and we knew we didn't have the time to do that". Michael Bentham.

"It's not comfortable watch. It is not something where it is very clear to see who you are for and what you should be thinking,,,,, it really provokes the audience to educate themselves about this issue and make up their own minds". Matilda Ridgway



“It’s a pugilistic match where each side is convinced that they’re in the right or, in the wake of contrary evidence, that they have enough worth fighting for to be declared the winners. Characters keep saying they just want to think “about the children” and what’s best for them, but nobody seems to be on the same page about what that means. This isn’t an easy film to watch and given the thin line of sexual violence versus sexual exploration, as well as the question of how old a child can recognize their actions, it made me quite uncomfortable throughout, but I was always intrigued with where it would go next. Disclosure is a small Australian film that is available for streaming rentals and while it’s not going to be the most fun 80-some minutes of your day, it will definitely make you think.”

Audience Feedback

GG

“It’s an uncomfortable movie because it traps you in that squirming discomfort of hard conversations and high-pressure tactics to relent or capitulate on ethics.”

Audience Feedback

GG

“This had my blood boiling! Arggh!”

GG

“I thought really highly of this one, my third official screening of the 2020 Palm Springs International Film Festival.”

Audience Feedback

GG

“If this was a TV series, Twitter would love it.”

GG

“Low budget features are inspiring - this particularly so. Manages to find new angles on a pretty confined premise from opening through to credits.”

“Like JK Rowling's ‘the casual vacancy’ except tighter, smarter, better written, and more emotionally arresting.”

Audience Feedback

GG

“Cinematographer Mark Carey does a fabulous job with enhanced lights on the sunny, green-filled Australian estate, with beautiful observations on insects, shades into the woods, the shining water, the heat, fire, leaves, and of course, the facial confrontations.”

Audience Feedback

GG

“It was all around very well done and performed. I have nothing bad to say about it. Great film.”

Keywords:

Cinematography

Filmmaking

Abuse

Sociology

Links:

<https://www.imdb.com/name/nm0136996/>

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WWW.LEEDSBECKETT.AC.UK/LARC

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