



Presents

JASPER JONES

A film by Rachel Perkins

“A marvelously entertaining and ultimately uplifting tale”
– Richard Kuipers, *Variety*



Australia / 2017 / Drama / English / 103 mins

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SYNOPSIS

Adapted from Craig Silvey's best-selling Australian novel and featuring a stellar cast including Toni Collette, Hugo Weaving, Levi Miller, Angourie Rice, Dan Wyllie and Aaron McGrath, JASPER JONES is the story of Charlie Bucktin, a bookish boy of 14 living in a small town in Western Australia. In the dead of night during the scorching summer of 1969, Charlie is startled when he is woken by local mixed-race outcast Jasper Jones outside his window. Jasper leads him deep into the forest and shows him something that will change his life forever, setting them both on a dangerous journey to solve a mystery that will consume the entire community. In an isolated town where secrecy, gossip and tragedy overwhelm the landscape, Charlie faces family breakdown, finds his first love, and discovers what it means to be truly courageous.

SHORT SYNOPSIS

Based on the best-selling novel, JASPER JONES is the story of Charlie Bucktin, a young bookish boy living in a small town. One night, local mixed-race outcast Jasper Jones appears at Charlie's window and the pair embark on a journey to solve a mystery that will consume the entire community.

LOGLINE

Two boys journey to solve a mystery that will consume the entire community.



SELECT PRESS FOR JASPER JONES

“Perkins gets the very best out of her talented cast and manages the not inconsiderable feat of delivering a marvelously entertaining and ultimately uplifting tale that’s devoid of even the slightest hint of sugary sentiment. Mark Wareham’s gorgeously composed widescreen images, Veronika Jenet’s precise editing and Antony Partos’ delicate score are highlights of the tip-top technical package.”

– Richard Kuipers, *Variety*

"Rachel Perkins, whose directorial work includes *Bran Nue Dae* and *One Night the Moon*, threads the plot’s various elements together so seamlessly it’s easy to forget that *Jasper Jones* ticks many boxes at the same time: a charming, genre-traversing film. It’s compelling as a whodunnit, touching as a coming-of-age story, insightful as a picture of race relations and crafty as a drama about secrets, concealing a few of its own for a final, satisfying reveal.”

– Luke Buckmaster *The Guardian*



CREDITS

CAST

Levi Miller	Charlie Bucktin
Jasper Jones	Aaron L. McGrath
Eliza Wishart	Angourie Rice
Mad Jack Lionel	Hugo Weaving
Ruth Bucktin	Toni Collette
Wes Bucktin	Dan Wyllie
Sarge	Matt Nable
Warwick Trent	Wilson Moore
Gwyn Wishart	Susan Prior
Detective Galbraith	Sam Longley
An Lu	Ferdinand Hoang
Kim Lu	Gabrielle Chan
Batsman	Cooper van Grootel
Sue Finlay	Alexandra Jones



CREW

Director	Rachel Perkins
Producer	Vincent Sheehan David Jowsey
Screenwriter	Shaun Grant
Co-Producer	Collin Mccumstie
Costumes	Margot Wilson
D.O.P	Mark Wareham
Editors	Lev Goldser Nili Feller
Composer	Antony Partos

DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Rachel Perkins' Australian Aboriginal heritage has informed her entire filmmaking career. She founded Australia's premier Indigenous Production company Blackfella Films in 1992, and has contributed extensively to the development of Indigenous filmmakers and, more broadly, to the Australian film and television industry. Rachel has directed four feature films: RADIANCE, ONE NIGHT THE MOON, the musical BRAN NUE DAE which screened at the Sundance, Berlin and Toronto Film Festivals, and the forthcoming release JASPER JONES. In 2012 Rachel directed the telemovie MABO for ABC1. Between 2012 and 2014 Rachel directed three episodes and a telemovie of the landmark television drama series REDFERN NOW for the ABC for which she received the Australian Directors Guild (ADG) Award for Best Direction in a TV Drama Series in 2013, 2014 and again in 2016. REDFERN NOW was awarded the 2013 and 2014 TV Week Logie Awards for Most Outstanding Drama Series, and the 2014 AACTA Award for Best Television Drama Series. Rachel also wrote, directed and co-produced the seven-hour documentary series for SBS FIRST AUSTRALIANS (2009), and in 2014 she completed the documentary BLACK PANTHER WOMAN which premiered at the Sydney Film Festival



DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

"Films that capture the human condition in profound transition are some of my favorites. In considering our approach to adapting the novel Jasper Jones, which traverses the transformation from child to adult, we returned to classics like 'Stand By Me' for inspiration. In that tradition our aim was to tell a classic tale, rather than reinvent cinema. With so many films that overdress in style or violence to distract from their shortfall in character and story, we opted for the old school approach; a great story and fine actors to give it life. Our story came to us courtesy of writer Craig Silvey, whose involvement was a little unusual. Not only did he write the novel and the shooting script, he then turned up to set every day to support the creative process to its conclusion. Being an Aussie movie tight on money, he had to bunk down in my accommodation to do so. Having the writer literally in the next room and equally enthusiastic to endlessly dissect the film was the greatest asset. He also baked great banana muffins. Our great cast came first with Levi Miller. He had received his big break in the US movie Pan and arrived on set a honed professional at age thirteen. Required to be in every scene of the film, he delivered a nuanced performance across the whole spectrum of the emotional scale as our lead 'Charlie'. Aaron McGrath, who I had given his very first role to when he was just a boy, now a young man, became the soul of the film through his intuitive and wrenching performance as Jasper Jones. Hugo Weaving, in one take, delivered a highlight of the film, a meticulously drawn ten minute monologue that left me speechless except to be able to say 'cut' when he was complete. Toni Collette rescheduled her Hollywood

commitments to come back home, because like thousands of others, she loved the book. Witnessing her work on set remains one of the great pleasures of my career. The enthusiasm for the story of Jasper Jones, not only from movie stars like Toni Colette, but also from funders, politicians, and ordinary Australians, built great momentum for our work, particularly in the south west of Australia, where we made the film. It showed me how people stories mean things to people and how they will rally around a story they love. It is my hope that this film fulfills their belief in us, and more broadly, the purpose of stories, which in the words of our writer Craig Silvey, exist to promote empathy, to test preconceptions and to transform opinions. The audience will ultimately be the judge if we have succeeded in that quest.” - Rachel Perkins

FESTIVALS & AWARDS

2017- Port Townsend Film Festival

2017- Milwaukee Film

2017- Heartland Film Festival

2017- Vermont International Film Festival

2017- Denver Film Festival

2017- Fairhope Film Festival

2017- Sony Brook International Film Festival

2017- Museum of Moving Image



ABOUT FILM MOVEMENT

Film Movement is a North American distributor of award-winning independent and foreign films based in New York City, which recently celebrated its 15th Anniversary with a month-long film series at the Museum of the Moving Image. As a company, Film Movement has released more than 250 feature films and shorts culled from prestigious film festivals worldwide, and last year it had its first Academy-Award®-nominated film, Naji Abu Nowar's THEEB. Film Movement's theatrical distribution strategy has evolved to include promising American independent films, documentaries, and an even stronger slate of foreign art house titles. Its catalog includes titles by directors such as Hirokazu Kore-eda, Maren Ade, Jessica Hausner, Andrei Konchalovsky, Andrzej Wajda, Diane Kurys, Ciro Guerra and Melanie Laurent. In 2015, Film Movement launched its reissue label Film Movement Classics, featuring new restorations released theatrically as well as on Blu-ray and DVD, including films by such noted directors as Eric Rohmer, Peter Greenaway, Bille August, Marleen Gorris, Takeshi Kitano, Arturo Ripstein, and Ettore Scola. For more information, please visit www.filmmovement.com.