

ACUTE MISFORTUNE

WINNER - THE AGE CRITICS PRIZE - MELBOURNE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL 2018

BEST FILMS OF THE YEAR 2018 - THE MONTHLY AWARDS

BEST FILMS OF THE YEAR 2018 - SCREEN DAILY

ARIA NOMINATION 2018 - BEST SOUNDTRACK ALBUM



“An enthralling, complex triumph ... A beautifully made and intensely thoughtful portrait... Wright understands that sentiment is often better coming from the audience than the film-maker. His drama ebbs and flows with a kind of haunting poeticism... This is an enthralling drama: The best and most interesting Australian biopic since *Chopper*.”

Luke Buckmaster, The Guardian

“An artist biopic that swaggeringly busts the limitations of the well-worn subgenre, *Acute Misfortune* is one of the year’s most striking and accomplished directorial debuts... this ambitious and stimulating glimpse into the dark abyss of creativity deserves widespread international exposure at festivals and via receptive theatrical settings... Henshall (*Snowtown*) is once again a powerfully magnetic presence in a role that should definitely pave the way to higher-profile international opportunities... director Wright delivers a fragmented, sometimes hallucinatory journey into the painful psychological spaces occupied by his two main characters. Stylistic flourishes abound, but these are no mere gratuitous window-dressing, rather the fruit of what is already a controlled and mature cinematic sensibility.”

Neil Young, Hollywood Reporter

“Will probably turn out to be the year’s best Australian film.”

Neil Young (Hollywood Reporter), Twitter.

“Outstanding debut begs comparison to *Snowtown*... a blistering, no-holds-barred cinematic portrait that, like Cullen’s artwork, relentlessly flouts convention, inspires questions and courts a strong, complicated reaction... the resulting feature stands out among both artist biopics and Australian cinema of late, brandishing a distinctive feel, a defiant streak and an almost abstract approach that’s all its own... Daniel Henshall is in blistering form as Adam Cullen... It’s a title that deserves an audience on the international festival circuit and beyond... In meticulous detail, Wright’s film scrutinises the give-and-take between interviewee and interviewer, as well as their respective roles and motivations in trying to turn a man into a myth... Each technical contribution has the feeling of an adroitly placed brushstroke contributing to a broader Masterwork.”

Sarah Ward, Screen Daily



"*Acute Misfortune* might just be the best Australian film of the last ten years... already the recipient of The Age's award for best Australian feature at MIFF, it'd hardly be surprising if went on to win more... Vivid psychological portraiture."

Beat Magazine

"A startling, unique vision of the final years in the life of controversial visual artist Adam Cullen... unexpected and compelling... a clarifying perspective that goes beyond biography... perhaps this is what the life of Adam Cullen needed."

Craig Mathieson, The Age



"*Acute Misfortune* is the strongest Australian film to be released since Warwick Thornton's *Sweet Country*... Thomas M. Wright astounds with his deft handling of the material... (his) understanding of cinematic language and character is almost faultless. Assured to scoop up a slew of prizes at home and abroad, *Acute Misfortune* is a thunderously great film."

The Lowdown Under

"A terrific film. It explodes the myth of the tortured genius."

Jessica Kiang, Variety, ABC Radio National

"A striking debut... a compelling, immersive work."

Phillipa Hawker, 'The New Breed', The Australian

"Thomas M. Wright's staggering debut transfixes... Daniel Henshall and Toby Wallace are heartbreaking in this swirling ambiguity of fear and loving. Terrible beauty."

Steven A Russell (SBS), Twitter

"Daniel Henshall and Toby Wallace stagger in first-time film director Thomas M. Wright's startling look at the life and death of artist Adam Cullen... The feverish feature debut of Thomas M. Wright... The talk of the Melbourne International Film Festival... *Acute Misfortune* is as visually arresting as its subject matter is startling... Though the doomed artist narrative can be riddled with cliché, Wright's elegiac film, embracing vaulting cinematic ambition paired with deeply intimate performances, redraws expectation... The director's theatrical background helped him weave the meticulously researched intricacies of Cullen and Jensen's relationship into a 90-minute movie thrumming with ambiguity."

Steven A Russel, SBS online

"Stellar... A scintillating adaptation."

Annabel Brady-Brown, The Big Issue



"A film full of rich imagery and insight, Wright's subtle direction examining the truths that lurk beneath the artist's skin. This is an arthouse film about an artist, superbly done with top-notch performances and evocative cinematography."

Jim Schembri, 3AW

“A striking, bold film... I haven’t seen an Australian film this well put together for a long time. *Acute Misfortune* really impressed me. An extraordinary debut feature.”

Jason Di Rosso, Radio National



“This powerhouse drama is one of the best Australian films of the year... Thomas M. Wright’s debut effort as director and co-writer is remarkably assured... It is a film that’s unafraid to be artful, rooted in atmosphere and mood, and is one of the strongest Australian films of the year.”

Glenn Dunks, flicks.com.au



“A thought-provoking work executed powerfully... an impressive feature directing debut.”

Anthony Frajman, Film Ink

“I loved this film... The soundtrack is perfect... It looks beautiful... I thought it was stunning.”

Eloise Ross, Cultural Capital.

“A sharply assembled and compelling film... a toxic, tender waltz... with a staggering performance from Daniel Henshall.”

Charlie Lewis, Crikey.

“The film adaptation of *Acute Misfortune* is as vivid and brilliant as the award-winning biography on which it’s based.”

Margaret Fink (Producer My Brilliant Career, Candy)

“Bio pics that work are rare enough but *Acute Misfortune* goes deep into two lives as they circle each other, a painter and a writer, each both hunter and hunted. It’s a dark triumph, profoundly strange and compelling.”

David Marr