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TIFF13 Review: McCanick (2013)

Posted by Brandy Dean September 8, 2013 0 Comment 2668 views

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When an aging narcotics cop Eugene McCanick (David Morse) learns that Simon Weeks (Cory Monteith), a kid he helped put away seven years ago, is back out on the streets, he quickly unravels in a mess of violence and paranoia. Taking place over the course of one very long day, McCanick manages to lure his earnest partner into his rouge investigation, with tragic consequences. Ultimately, there's a painful and shocking showdown between McCanick and Weeks.

Director Josh C. Waller manages to construct a loving homage to the gritty, rouge cop genre (think *The French Connection*; the script even weaves in an overt reference to Popeye Doyle) and David Morse delivers an admirable performance as tortured McCanick, but the flaws with *McCanick* lies mostly in the thoroughness of that homage. At this point in cinema history, the rouge cop drama comes burdened with heavy audience expectations, chief among them being that the cop, no matter how corrupt, how paranoid, or how out of control, is a fundamentally just man. Eugene McCanick is not fundamentally just – he's doing very horrible things for completely opaque reasons.

For the bulk of *McCanick's* 96 minute run-time the audience is in on only half the secret. We thoroughly understand from the outset that McCanick is wrong about Weeks and every act of harassment and violence is greeted with increasing horror. We're even let in, in slow drips, that McCanick and his police cohorts overtly framed Weeks. However, we don't learn the full truth about the conspiracy and the reason behind McCanick's grotesque behavior until the final minutes of the film, and by then it's far too late to redeem our feelings about any of the characters.

McCanick is a fine example of a good idea gone awry. Unfortunately, the idea is not quite enough to rescue the failed ambitions of the movie. If you do see it, you'll forget it by the next day.

Screening Times for McCanick

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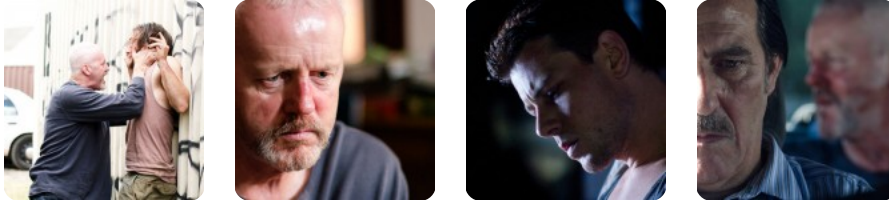
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A Gallery of Images from McCanick



Watch the McCanick Trailer



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About Brandy Dean

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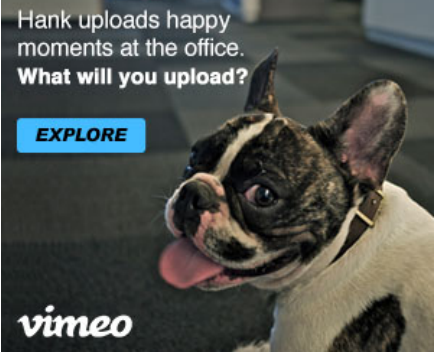
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