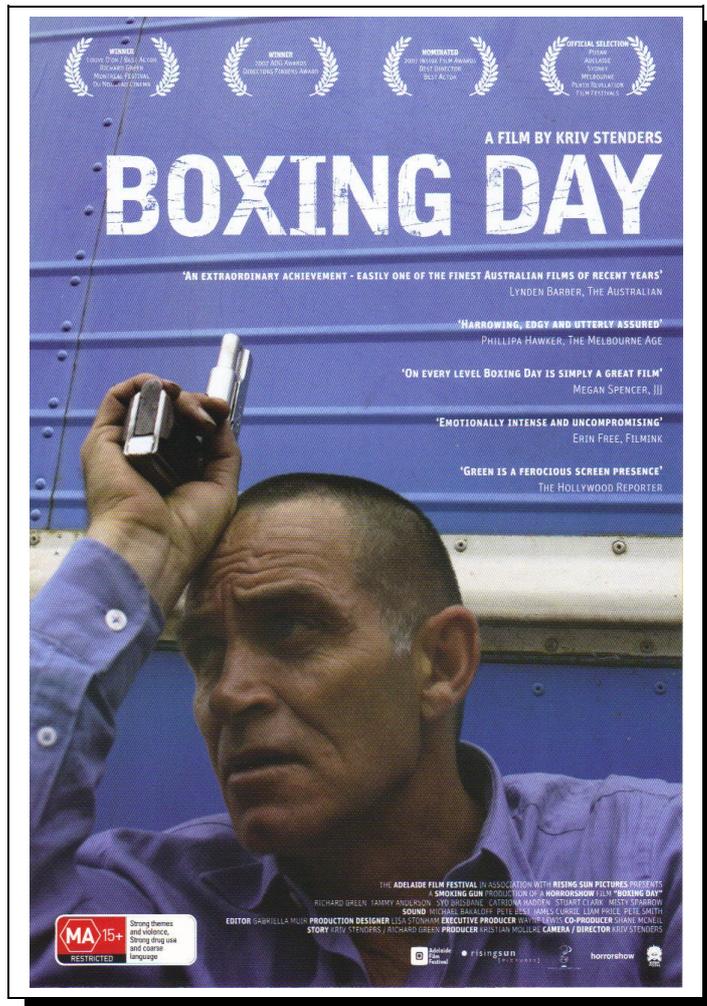


The Adelaide Film Festival in association with  
Rising Sun Pictures  
presents a  
Smoking Gun Production  
of a  
Horrorshow Film



# Media Kit - Reviews

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## Boxing Day

Bottom Line: Intense, daring siege drama that smacks of veracity.

By Elizabeth Kerr

Oct 5, 2007

*Pusan International Film Festival*

BUSAN, South Korea -- Kriv Stenders' low-budget, digital Australian film "Boxing Day" reminds jaded viewers of the fundamental strengths of the medium. Though slightly unpolished, Stenders has crafted a gripping domestic drama of ample power. "Boxing Day" could see success in markets where the Dardennes' "The Child" and Mike Leigh's "Secrets & Lies" were modest hits.

On the afternoon after Christmas, parolee Chris (Richard Green) is preparing lunch for his brother's ex-wife Donna (Tammy Anderson) and her daughter Brooke (Misty Sparrow). Tagging along is Dave (Syd Brisbane), Donna's new boyfriend. Owen (Stuart Clark), a former associate of Chris', arrives just before the family does with both a criminal demand of Chris, and eventually an agonizing secret about Dave's own criminal past. After he leaves, Chris is left to decide how to handle the explosive revelation.

"Boxing Day" was shot (by Stenders) to appear as if filmed in one real-time take while never drawing undue attention to that fact. As opposed to feeling like a gimmick, the roving camera and seamless cuts only add to the tension building within the house and fragile family.

Stenders conceived of the film with star Green. They've put together a simple film based on a single nugget of information that's rich with human truths. It helps a great deal that Green is a ferocious screen presence. Stenders certainly establishes himself as one of Australia's most prominent digital filmmakers, one who keeps his camera focused on the marginalized in Oz society.

The film's biggest assets are its actors, a combination of pro and nonpro. There isn't a character who doesn't ring true. Each performance is as emotionally intense as it is real. Standing out among a strong cast is Anderson, who is charged with the difficult task of making empathetic Donna's initial response of placing her own problems ahead of those of an abused child. And Green's turn as a man fighting to retain a sense of balance never dips into histrionics.

### **BOXING DAY**

A Rising Sun Pictures/Horrorshow/Smoking Gun Prods. production

Credits:

Director: Kriv Stenders

Screenwriters: Kriv Stenders, Richard Green

Producer: Kristian Moliere

Executive producer: Wayne Lewis

Director of photography: Kriv Stenders

Production designer: Lisa Stonham

Co-producer: Shane McNeil

Editor: Gabriella Muir

Cast:

Chris: Richard Green

Donna: Tammy Anderson

Dave: Syd Brisbane

Brooke: Misty Sparrow

Owen: Stuart Clark

Cathy: Catriona Hadden

Running time -- 81 minutes

No MPAA rating

[http://www.hollywoodreporter.com/hr/awards\\_festivals/fest\\_reviews/article\\_display.jsp?JSESSIONID=Drn2HG5JlqQlhGzKvmrDTZBMCQkhdvMsMGncZq7vICJ7DQRJ1Z1j!-1396482727&&rid=9963](http://www.hollywoodreporter.com/hr/awards_festivals/fest_reviews/article_display.jsp?JSESSIONID=Drn2HG5JlqQlhGzKvmrDTZBMCQkhdvMsMGncZq7vICJ7DQRJ1Z1j!-1396482727&&rid=9963)



Posted: Fri., Mar. 2, 2007, 2:45pm PT

## BOXING DAY

(Australia ) An Adelaide Film Festival presentation in association with Rising Sun Pictures of a Smoking Gun production of a Horrorshow film. (International sales: Smoking Gun, Adelaide.) Produced by Kristian Moliere. Executive producer, Wayne Lewis. Co-producer, Shane McNeil. Directed by Kriv Stenders. Story, Stenders, Richard Green.

**With:** Richard Green, Tammy Anderson, Syd Brisbane, Misty Sparrow, Stuart Clark, Catriona Haddin.

By [RICHARD KUIPERS](#)

**Auds looking for raw-boned cinema of the Dogma variety are the likeliest takers for Aussie domestic drama "Boxing Day." Unfolding in real time during the post-Christmas Day gathering of a jumpy criminal and the family he's hoping to make peace with, pic is intense and uneven, but not without rewards for those willing to look it in the eye. Unlikely to travel much beyond fests, the DV low-budgeter will need a committed local distributor to see any hardtop action prior to disc release.**

World preemed at the Adelaide fest, Kriv Stenders' third feature continues along the minimalist and collaborative path of his previous entry, "Blacktown." Pic was filmed in several long takes seamlessly joined to give the impression of an unbroken shot, while dialogue was improvised by the cast from a story by Stenders and Richard Green. A real-life ex-con with a striking face, the Irish-Aboriginal Green also essays lead-thesp duties as Chris, a home detention prisoner and recovering alcoholic who wants to go straight.

Ambient sound is all that's heard for the first 11 minutes as fidgety Chris prepares lunch in his bland suburban house. Silence is broken by the arrival of Owen (Stuart Clark), a criminal associate who wants to stash drugs on the premises. Theme of crooks imprisoned by their past rises quickly to the surface when Chris refuses to comply.

Uncomfortable atmosphere settles down temporarily with the arrival of Chris' teenage daughter, Brooke (Misty Sparrow). The withdrawn girl immediately retreats to a bedroom, leaving ex-wife Donna (Tammy Anderson) and her eager-to-please new b.f., Dave (Syd Brisbane), to take up the awkward conversational slack.

Taking Chris aside, Owen says Dave is a child molester he recognizes from stir. Despite reasonable doubts about the source, the prickly thought won't go away as the afternoon descends into squabbling on other matters.

Although the pic's dramatic aspirations sometimes outstrip the performers' grasp -- Brisbane is the only pro on show -- the film has a directness that remains absorbing. It also doesn't limit its scope to the single issue of whether there's a pedophile in the house. Carefully sown info about past events and family connections gives everyone the chance to reflect on sad lives and begin journeys to better stations.

Handheld camerawork moves efficiently around faces and chooses the right moments to let off-screen dialogue advance other plot threads. Fine soundtrack, rich in lo-fi rumblings, adds to the atmosphere

of disquiet.

Camera (color, HD cam), Stenders; editor, Gabriella Muir; production designer, Lisa Stonham; sound (stereo), James Currie; sound designers, Michael Bakaloff, Pete Best, Currie, Liam Price, Pete Smith; assistant director, Shane McNeil. Reviewed at Adelaide Film Festival, Feb. 23, 2007. Running time: 82 MIN.

Read the full article at: <http://www.variety.com/story.asp?l=story&r=VE1117932977&c=31>

# BOXING DAY

## SELECTED REVIEWS

"*Boxing Day* is an extraordinary achievement - easily one of the finest Australian films of recent years

**Lynden Barber, The Australian**

"*Boxing Day* is one of the most assured and complete Australian films you'll ever see. That is, if you can summon up the guts to even front up for this uncompromising and utterly devastating drama...filmmaker Kriv Stenders goes after – and effortlessly captures – a raw social realism rarely achieved on-screen...*Boxing Day* is not just a tremendous achievement for the promising Stenders but for low-budget Australian cinema as a whole."

**Leigh Paatsch, Melbourne Herald Sun (4 Star Review)**

"Watching *Boxing Day* you get the feeling that if all Australian films were as honest and as good as this one, we might actually go and see them. On every level *Boxing Day* is simply a great film."

**Megan Spencer, Triple J Radio**

"(Kriv) Stenders has crafted a gripping domestic drama of ample power... The film's biggest assets are its actors, a combination of pro and non-pro. There isn't a character who doesn't ring true. Each performance is as emotionally intense as it is real...(Richard) Green is a ferocious screen presence...Stenders certainly establishes himself as one of Australia's most prominent digital filmmakers."

**Elizabeth Kerr, Hollywood Reporter**

"Harrowing, edgy and utterly assured...each scene plays out with a fierce, improvised urgency, yet *Boxing Day* never feels loose or meandering; there is a powerful logic to the characters and their actions..."

"Raw, immediate, but rigorously constructed."

**Phillipa Hawker, The Melbourne Age**

***Selected as one of the 5 "Films to Watch" at the Melbourne International Film Festival***

"*Boxing Day* is engrossing throughout and the performances are excellent."

**Tom Ryan, The Melbourne Age**

"...a compelling piece of cinema verite...a piece of fine filmmaking art. *Boxing Day* demonstrates yet again that budgets do not craft good films, ideas do. Highly recommended."

**Peter Krausz, Australian Film Critics Association**

"One half of me was nailed to the seat when I saw this – the other half was blown out the door...the best Australian film since *Chopper*, with more chutzpah and power than Jeff Fenech."

**Hussain Currimbhoy, Brisbane International Film Festival (Top 10 Films of the Festival)**

"I was captivated, trance like watching the film. The tension builds slowly, until it's wound really tight... Richard Green and Tammy Anderson's performances are first rate....Don't hold off until the DVD, this is a film for the big screen...*Boxing Day* is great screen theatre."

**Graeme Watson, Film & Television Institute, Western Australia**

# BOXING DAY

## SELECTED REVIEWS (CONT.)

“...one of the toughest, rawest feature films in the recent spate of tough, raw Australian films...(Richard) Green’s raw energy and emotional volatility gives it a surprising power.”  
**Garry Maddox, Sydney Morning Herald**

“...unbearably tense...”  
**James Hewison, CEO of the Australian Film Institute**

“The film features a raft of powerful performances from its largely inexperienced cast...  
*Boxing Day* is taut and tightly plotted...”  
**Peter Galvins, Encore Magazine**

“(Richard) Green has created a character of singular emotional depth...*Boxing Day* is an arresting and timely piece of Australian cinema. Its stark honesty and formal innovation set it apart from all but a few recent Australian films.”  
**Tom Redwood, Metro Magazine**

“...raw-cinema of the Dogma variety...pic is intense...the film has a directness that remains absorbing...”  
**Richard Kuipers, Variety**

“...a fabulous local feature... the half-dozen actors excel...this is brave and clever film-making.”  
**Andrew Bunney, dB Magazine**

“Played by professional and non-professional actors — including the poignant Richard Green, a former prison inmate, in the role of the father — the gripping film was shot without rehearsal but in three versions, each time in one week. The final version is one of the most compelling films presented in this section.”  
**Barbara Lorey, FIPRESCI**

“...a tense family drama filmed halfway between the technical *tour-de-force* of *Russian Ark* (*Russisky Kovcheg*) and home-movie simplicity.”  
**Kirill Razlogov, FIPRESCI**

“...startling evidence of the director’s forte for intense drama...it’s an exercise that works...it warrants much more public exposure.”  
**Geoff Gardner, Senses of Cinema**

“...highly effective in its authenticity and sustained heavy drama. The cast of non-actors are credible with sensitive subject matter, and the experiment of shooting the film ostensibly in one extended handheld take contributes to (its) relentless drive.”  
**Sandy Cameron, RealTime**

# BOXING DAY

## INTERNET ARTICLES AND REVIEWS

<http://www.sensesofcinema.com/contents/festivals/07/43/adelaide-ff-2007.html>

[http://www.fipresci.org/festivals/archive/2007/adelaide/movie\\_wonderland\\_bloreym.htm](http://www.fipresci.org/festivals/archive/2007/adelaide/movie_wonderland_bloreym.htm)

[http://www.fipresci.org/festivals/archive/2007/adelaide/australia\\_krazlogov.htm](http://www.fipresci.org/festivals/archive/2007/adelaide/australia_krazlogov.htm)

<http://www.theage.com.au/news/film/captive-audience/2007/03/05/1172943352634.html>

<http://graemewatson.blogspot.com/2007/02/boxing-day.html>

<http://www.smh.com.au/news/film/laughs-then-lots-of-edgy-stuff/2007/02/28/1172338707184.html>

<http://afca.org.au/aff2007.php>

<http://www.wsws.org/articles/2007/jul2007/sff5-j24.shtml>

## INTERNET INTERVIEWS

Interview with director, Kriv Stenders, in the Australian Film Commission IndiVision newsletter:

[http://www.afc.gov.au/newsandevents/afcnews/converse/kriv\\_stenders/newspage\\_396.aspx](http://www.afc.gov.au/newsandevents/afcnews/converse/kriv_stenders/newspage_396.aspx)

Interview with director, Kriv Stenders, in the Sydney Morning Herald (17 February 2007):

<http://www.smh.com.au/news/entertainment/one-from-the-heart/2007/02/15/1171405360250.html>

Interview with director, Kriv Stenders, for the World Socialist Web Site (24 July 2007):

[http://www.wsws.org/articles/2007/jul2007/sff6-j24\\_prn.shtml](http://www.wsws.org/articles/2007/jul2007/sff6-j24_prn.shtml)