

The Truth Game

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The Truth Game

Uncertificated, 80 mins

Anyone who can go out and shoot a movie on a shoestring is to be applauded. Former *What's On* film critic Simon Rumley has now done this twice. Where his likeable debut *Strong Language* essentially consisted of young Londoners talking to camera, his follow-up *The Truth Game* ups its production values slightly, with characters interacting in the various locations of a four-storey house.

The devastatingly simple plot framework puts six people in a closed environment to watch the sparks fly. Not yet successful novelist Eddy (Stuart Laing) and his loyal, financially supportive wife Lilly (Selena Giles) are house-sitting. They invite two more couples round for the evening. The first, Dan (Paul Blackthorne) and Charlotte (Tania Emery), are having serious relationship problems. Dan is making pots of

money, but deeply insecure about work. He hasn't cottoned on that Charlotte has had enough of this and is in fact seeing someone else.

The second couple, much happier with each others company, comprise extroverted, heart and soul of the party type Alex (Jennifer White) and her socially maladjusted but basically soft-hearted boyfriend Alan (the versatile Thomas Fisher, showing off a completely different facet of his personality from this week's *The Nine Lives Of Thomas Katz*).

When Eddy's friend Kate (Wendy Watson) turns up traumatised at the front door, his attempts at comforting her in the bedroom threaten to get out of hand. As an exercise in character study, what follows may be low key, but proves curiously compelling. **NFT**

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