

Stay home..



The Truth Game (nc)

director: Simon Rumley
cast: Jennifer White, Paul Blackthorne, Selina Giles, Stuart Laing, Tania Emery, Thomas Fisher
duration: 80 minutes

Dinner parties have long been out of fashion and it's hardly surprising, if the bitchy gathering at the heart of Simon Rumley's film is anything to go by.

The ingredients for a chaotic evening are as follows: take three couples. Add cocaine, alcohol, several infidelities and the clever suggestion that everyone plays 'The Truth Game'. Microwave on full power for ten minutes and vacate the kitchen before the explosions start.

Hosts Eddy (Stuart Laing) and Lilly (Selina Giles) are your typical middle class Londoners. He's a frustrated novelist who deals drugs to keep the bank account in credit, while she's the go-getting breadwinner who's willing to support him until his writing ambitions succeed. Alan (Thomas Fisher) and Alex (Jennifer White) are poor and principled charity workers, while Dan (Paul Blackthorne) and Charlotte (Tania Emery) are white-collar professionals whose turbulent relationship is on the skids.

Writer-director Rumley's film is the second part in his trilogy about young Londoners, after 1998's 'Strong Language'. Filmed almost entirely within the flat where the dinner party takes place it's a claustrophobic film, full of edgy handheld camera work that emphasizes the fly-on-the-wall documentary feel.

We watch as they make small talk, tell jokes and discuss the relative merits of everything from Charlie Manson to men's magazines and pornography. As the characters fight, argue and lie to one another we're given access to all the information so that we know who's lying to whom and when. It's a clever ploy that makes for some excellent moments as we watch these distinctly unglamorous Londoners bluff and double bluff their spouses and friends.

Low-budget British filmmaking at it's best, 'The Truth Game' is a compelling drama that captures the essence of twenty-something London life and manages to last it's whole running time without a single mockney accent or gangster shootout. Refreshingly down to earth.

review by [Jamie Russell](#)

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