



SYNOPSIS

Martin Ward is a cove fisherman, without a boat. His brother Steven has re-purposed their father's vessel as a tourist tripper, driving a wedge between the brothers. With their childhood home now a get-away for London money, Martin is displaced to the estate above the picturesque harbour. As his struggle to restore the family to their traditional place creates increasing friction with tourists and locals alike, a tragedy at the heart of the family changes his world.

WHAT THE CRITICS SAY

"One of the defining British films of the decade"

Cornish film-maker Mark Jenkin's breakthrough feature is a thrillingly adventurous labour of love – a richly textured, rough-hewn gem in which form and content are perfectly combined. A refreshingly authentic tale of tensions between locals and tourists in a once-thriving fishing village, it's an evocative portrait of familiar culture clashes in an area where traditional trades and lifestyles are under threat. Shot with clockwork cameras on grainy 16mm stock, which Jenkin hand-processed in his studio in Newlyn, *Bait* is both an impassioned paean to Cornwall's proud past, and a bracingly tragicomic portrait of its troubled present and possible future. It's a genuine modern masterpiece, which establishes Jenkin as one of the most arresting and intriguing British film-makers of his generation.

Mark Kermode, The Guardian

"A rare find that is a truly original feature by a British director. Bait ferments weighty social themes into cinema so intoxicating it changes your blood-alcohol levels."

What is cinema for? To delight? To tell stories? To illuminate the rifts in this fractured world? By any of these measures, *Bait* is a triumph. It is powered by social tensions. In one corner: down-on-his-luck local fisherman Martin (Rowe on tragicomic form). In the other: the forces of gentrification as embodied by the Leighs, an out-of-towner family who bought 'Skipper's Cottage' from Martin and his estranged brother. Each sequence is full of overwhelmingly pleasurable visual texture thanks to the prickly romance of the black-and-white grain and Jenkin's rapturous framing. Such technique is a joy to behold in service of a story where personal sorrow and absurd humour bleeds into the complexity of community, making for a timely social portrait and a timeless work of art.

Sophie Monks Kaufman, Empire

CAST

Character	Actor
Martin Ward	Edward Rowe
Sandra Leigh	Mary Woodvine
Tim Leigh	Simon Shepherd
Steven Ward	Giles King
Wenna Kowalski	Chloe Endean
Neil Ward	Isaac Woodvine
Katie Leigh	Georgia Ellery
Hugo Leigh	Jowan Jacobs
Liz Stewart	Stacey Guthrie
Brian Rikard	Tristan Sturrock
Billy Ward	Martin Ellis

CREW

DIRECTOR / WRITING / CINEMATOGRAPHY / MUSIC / EDITING	Mark Jenkin
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BOOKING INFORMATION

DISTRIBUTOR	British Film Institute
NON-THEATRICAL BOOKINGS	British Film Institute bookings.films@bfi.org.uk
AVAILABLE	20 th January 2020

