

BAIT

Written and directed by Mark Jenkin

UK 2019, 89 mins, Cert 15, format 4:3

A BFI release of an Early Day Films production

"Original and stylistically bold" The Hollywood Reporter
"Ravishing cinema" Screen Daily

**Starring Edward Rowe, Mary Woodvine, Giles King
and Simon Shepherd**



Opening 30 August 2019 in cinemas UK-wide including BFI Southbank, Curzon Bloomsbury, Picturehouse Central, HOME Manchester, Watershed Bristol, Chapter Cardiff, Curzon Oxford, Filmhouse Edinburgh, GFT, Newlyn Filmhouse, Plaza Truro, Lighthouse Newquay, Tyneside Newcastle, ICA, Depot Lewes, Chapter Cardiff, Hackney Picturehouse, Cambridge Arts Picturehouse, Crouch End Picturehouse, Exeter Picturehouse, Southampton Harbour Lights
Previews + Director Q&A: BFI Southbank (28 Aug*), Newlyn Filmhouse (16 Aug), Plaza Truro (17 Aug), Regal Cinema Wadebridge (18 Aug), Lighthouse Newquay (19 Aug), The Poly Falmouth (20 Aug), Picturehouse Exeter (21 Aug), Watershed Bristol (22 Aug), Chapter Cardiff (23 Aug), HOME Manchester (24 Aug), Newcastle Tyneside (25 Aug), Filmhouse Edinburgh (27 Aug), Picturehouse Central (29 Aug), Curzon Bloomsbury (30 Aug), Curzon Oxford (31 Aug)

Bait is a brilliantly original and visually daring feature film from the writer/director **Mark Jenkin**. Set within the community of a present-day Cornish fishing village, it was shot on location in Charlestown and Penzance, Cornwall, with a 1970s 16mm wind-up Bolex camera, on black and white Kodak film that was hand-processed by Mark himself. *Bait* is a beautifully crafted new film with a vintage feel that tackles contemporary issues amongst different social classes and different generations with heart and humour. Distributed by the BFI, it opens in cinemas UK-wide on **30 August**. Mark Jenkin will take part in a run of preview screenings + Q&As around the country in the lead-up to the release. Some screenings will be on 35mm.*

Gruff and taciturn Martin Ward (Cornish actor and comedian **Edward Rowe aka Kernow King**) is a cove fisherman in Cornwall, but he doesn't have a boat. His brother Steven (**Giles King**) repurposed their father's vessel for tourist trips and they fell out. As Martin struggles to put a bit of cash by every day in order to buy his own boat, the family rivalry takes its toll, not to mention the influx of London money, stag parties and holiday homes that are displacing the locals in his picturesque harbour village. Urban couple Sandra and Tim, **Mary Woodvine** (*Poldark, Our Friends in the North*) and **Simon Shepherd** (*Peak Practice, Henry V*), now own Martin's family home – AirBnB'ing part of it – and continually get his back up. The summer season brings in flirtatious teenage holidaymakers causing upsets, and as all the simmering tensions come to a head, Martin finds himself at odds with everyone, creating a strained dynamic.

Director Mark Jenkin (*Bronco's House, Golden Burn*), who is based in Newlyn, Cornwall, always wanted to make a film about the local fishing industry. Although fishermen and tourists in this part of the world have rubbed along together for generations, the increase in second home owners as austerity bites for the locals has created a greater divide.

"This is a place where tourism is seen as positive" he says, but it's *"a place where fishermen have no voice while the incomers shout to be noticed in their new community, where the old ways and the new ways collide."*

Although a tale of have and have nots, *Bait* is far from bleak, with some sharp and witty dialogue and creating a very likeable hero in Martin who you can't help rooting for.

Mark Jenkin is a filmmaker who does things the long way round. His use of traditional filmmaking techniques (his own processing materials can include coffee, washing soda and vitamin C powder; whatever creates the right alkaline balance) make *Bait* the work of an artisan; the scratches and the dust marks on the frames only add to its authenticity.

Already making a mark at international film festivals this year, *Bait* had its world premiere at Berlin in February, attracting a sweep of rave reviews. In April it had its North America premiere at New Directors/New Films in New York and in the same month won the Audience Award at IndieLisboa, the International Independent Film Festival of Lisbon. Its UK premiere was at the Edinburgh International Film Festival on 21 June. On 3 August it won both the Grand Prix and the Audience Award at the 19th New Horizons International Film Festival in Poland.

Bait is produced by Linn Waite and Kate Byers whose company Early Day Films is based in Bristol. In May, Early Day Films was recognised by Creative England as one of 50 of the most exciting, innovative and disruptive creative companies and individuals across film, games and digital media.

Timely and poignant, yet with humour and an enjoyably offbeat lo-fi vibe, *Bait* gets right to the heart of a modern community facing unwelcome change. It could become a future British social realist classic.

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For further information, interview requests and images please contact:

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More film information and screening venues: www.bfi.org.uk/releases

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- Actively seeks out and supports the next generation of filmmakers
- Works with Government and industry to make the UK the most creatively exciting and prosperous place to make film internationally

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