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### PRODUCTION DETAILS

Release date: 18/08/2005  
 Release details: Limited Release. National Release. Please check local papers for details.  
 Classification: M  
 Duration: 100 mins  
 Genre: Drama  
 Director: Sarah Watt  
 Lead actor: William McInnes  
 Cast: Justine Clarke, Anthony Hayes, Lisa Flanagan, Andrew S. Gilbert, Daniela Farinacci, Sacha Horler, Maggie Dence, Edwin Hodgeman and Andreas Sobik  
 Producer: Bridget Ikin  
 Screenplay: Sarah Watt  
 Music: Amanda Brown  
 Distributor: Dendy Films / Footprint Films  
 Language: English  
 Country: Australia

### Review by David Stratton

Meryl imagines disaster coming from every direction, train crashes, man-eating sharks, baby-eating killer whales and then there's Nick.

Margaret: ★★★★★☆ David: ★★★★★☆

Watch "Look Both Ways" trailer [M-rated] (About Media Players ):

RealPlayer  
 Hi-fi video  
 Lo-fi video

Animator Sarah Watt's first feature film, LOOK BOTH WAYS, explores the lives of a number of damaged people over one weekend in Adelaide.

Meryl, (Justine Clarke), an artist, arrives home after attending her father's funeral; there is news of a train crash, and she is almost witness to the death of a man on a railway line. Nick, (William McInnes), who has just been diagnosed with a spreading cancer, is a newspaper photographer who, with journalist Andy, (Anthony Hayes), covers the death of the man on the tracks.

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- n [Look Both Ways](#)  
Margaret ★★★★★☆ David ★★★★★☆
- n [Tell Them Who You Are](#)  
Margaret

He takes a photo of the man's partner, Julia, (Daniela Farinacci), which his editor, Phil, (Andrew S. Gilbert), displays on the front page of the paper the next day. Nick and Meryl meet again by chance. Andy is separated from his wife; his girlfriend, Anna, (Lisa Flanagan), is pregnant.

★★★★☆ David  
★★★★☆

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This is one of those films in which the paths of a number of disparate characters cross during a short timeframe. The shadow of death hovers over these people, but the film itself is a joyful affirmation of life.

Watt's sensitive, controlled handling of the various strands of the narrative is very impressive; these aren't just interesting characters, they're flawed but beautiful human beings, and your heart reaches out to them as they pick their way through the difficulties of simply living.

The performances are flawless, Andrew S. Gilbert's face, as he watches his wife and daughter, speaks volumes the screenplay doesn't need to spell out. The frustrations of Andy are painfully explored by Anthony Hayes, as are the even greater frustrations of Anna in Lisa Flanagan's fine performance. Nick and Meryl are immensely sympathetic characters, thanks to the relaxed underplaying by McInnes and Clarke.

The one element of the film that slightly bothered me was the animation; Meryl and Nick imagine all kinds of disasters, and they're visualised in animated form; this is an unnecessary device, which the film really doesn't need.

That apart, this is a close to perfect movie.

#### FURTHER COMMENTS

DAVID: Margaret?

MARGARET: Well, I agree with your last

statement but I love the animation in it. And after I saw this film, which just bowled me over, I love it because it just delivers such an emotional touch.

DAVID: It is, it's a wonderfully emotional film.

MARGARET: I went back and looked at Sarah's animation because she's an animator.

DAVID: Mmm, I know.

MARGARET: And I thought that was the miracle actually, because her animation is wonderful but to be able to bring all that talent where you've got all that control over your animated characters to a live action film, I thought was extraordinary. I think she is an artist. A really beautiful artist.

DAVID: Yeah, I don't want to make too much of it because I think it is a wonderful film, but I just didn't see any need for animation at all. It just, sort of annoyed me a bit.

MARGARET: I thought that was the lovely daring part of it, you see. And I like filmmaking to be daring and not just deliver what you expect. I like unexpected things, but I really think this such a major achievement and just when we thought the film industry was on its last legs, along comes 'Look Both Ways'.

DAVID: A really good, very deep film.

MARGARET: It is fun.

MARGARET: It's fabulous, isn't it? So lovely to see, 4.5 stars from me.

DAVID: Yep, 4.5 from me too

