

# CRUSHED

Australia, PG, 2008, 90min, Drama, 16x9, (Not rated)

Writer and director: Ian Dixon.

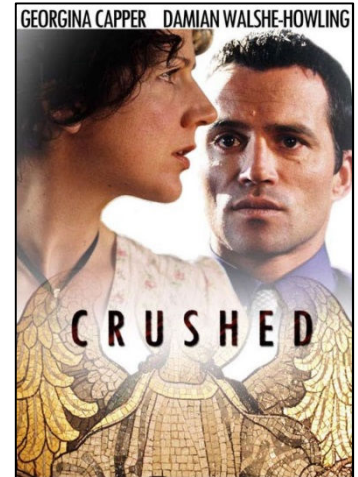
Stars: Penelope Bartlau, Georgina Capper, Damian Walsh-Howling, Ian Dixon.

Love collides with duty when Nathalia, a 30-year-old schoolteacher, is forced to question her loyalties; she must choose between a vulnerable student and a fellow teacher, who also happens to be the object of her affections. The film screened to full houses at Cinema Nova in 2009 and received highly complementary reviews.

Filmed in and around Melbourne, Vic.

IMDB score 6.4

FVFS panel vote 3.5 (out of 5)



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Review by Ian Davidson

Nathalie Harris, a timid English teacher in an all-girls private school, manages to maintain some sort of control of her students despite their goading her. Nathalies' friendship with the Vice-Principal and her ability to control her students, however, are threatened when a male sports teacher starts at the school.

Emotions boil over and allegiances are tried when he is accused of acting inappropriately towards one of the more difficult students.

The film took some time to develop its main theme and until the key situation developed the acting and direction tended to be a bit sloppy. But it quickly became taut and strong as the film progressed. While some of the continuity slips in the early part of the film were amusing and distracting, the latter half of the film was much more professionally acted and directed.

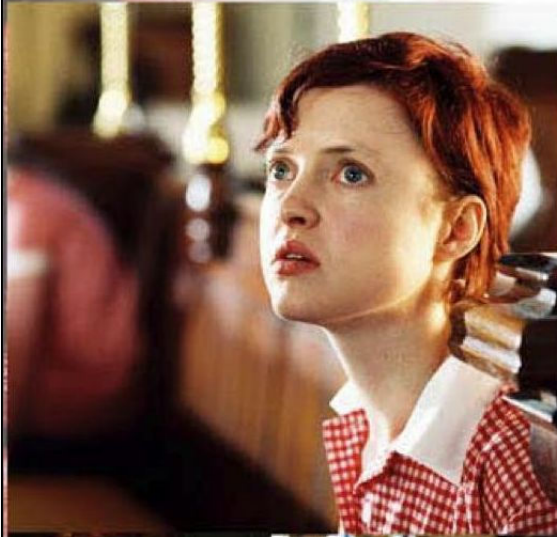
There are several references to Othello and his relationship with Desdemona which clearly parallel the situation developing in the school – or so we are led to believe!

No doubt this situation could easily arise in an all-girls private school where the students are “spoilt brats” and raises some interesting questions about how teachers should behave in such circumstances – not all of which are completely predictable.

This is a film which raises some interesting issues for discussion.

Ian Dixon would be happy to come to talk at a film society if requested. He lives in Kalorama and lectures in South Melbourne.

## Attraction can be dangerous.



Love collides with duty when a schoolteacher (Nathalia) is forced to question her loyalties. An accusation of sexual indiscretion between a vulnerable student (Audrey) and Nathalia's love interest, the handsome sports teacher (Jason), Nathalia becomes unwittingly pulled into the scandal. Who should she believe?

Everyone has their secrets in the world of this catholic girls school run by the ruthlessly efficient Vice Principal (Victoria). The story unfolds piece-by-piece as secrets exposed and characters are forced to choose sides.

Compelling performances dominate this impressive debut from writer/director, Ian Dixon.



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