

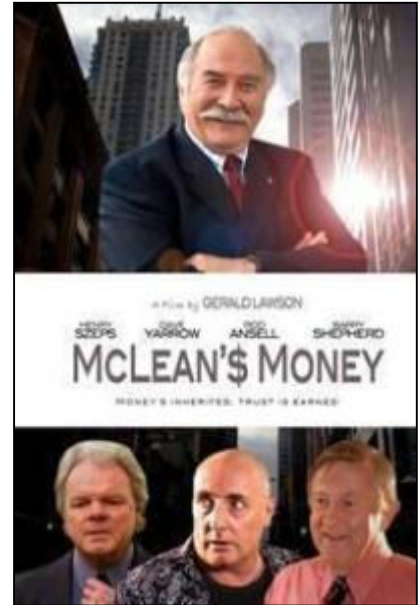
McLEAN'S MONEY,

Aust, 2013, 97 min, comedy/ Drama, 16x9, (M)

Director: Gerald Lawson

Stars: : Henri Szeps, Rod Ansell, Barry Shepherd, Paul Malaith, David Gubbay, Dave Yarrow, Kay Gwynne, Tracy Ebbetts, Katy Carruthers, Phil McGrath, Matthew Halliday, Justin Bullock.

Wealthy widower Edward McLean is heading towards a major health scare. Some of his relatives are more concerned about his will than his health, so he decides to "sort them out". Filmed in and around Newcastle, NSW. Members scored it 4.1 stars at the FVFS AGM.



More information and a trailer is at <http://www.mcleansmoney.com/site/>

IMDB score 7.3

FVFS panel vote 4.1 (out of 5)

Review by Marilyn Martyn

Medical doctor and independent, self funded, Aussie film maker ,Gerald Lawson, has produced an award winning film that is intriguing, entertaining and thought provoking. A wealthy tycoon, with three sons' who have not lived up to his expectations, has a health scare. He uses it to test the level of each son's attachment to inheriting his money. He tests them by faking his imminent death and announcing all his money will be left to charity. It will be distributed through 'The McLean Foundation'.

An Aussie crime boss with two sons, a wayward daughter in law, devoted housekeeper and personal assistant, hospital chaplain and three sons who love their father, but are more concerned with where their lives are heading rather than their father's money, are the characters woven into a well written script even though at times the situations do seem somewhat contrived.

The opening scene is an aerial view of a luxurious country estate. An elderly man is returning home in a helicopter. The audience sees the extent of his wealth. This is followed by the interior of a huge mansion. The plot thickens and we learn the father's attitude about money. He tells the chaplain, "I didn't make it to give it away." This conflicts with his wish to set up a charitable foundation. The audience is in on the joke. The film was filmed around Newcastle, New South Wales. The cinematography shows the opulent lifestyle as well as capturing the Australian countryside. In contrast the hospital is ordinary.

The film was written produced and directed by Gerald Lawson. Its release date was September 2013.

The cast includes Henri Szeps, who is wonderful as the tycoon, Rod Ansel, Barry Sheperd and Paul Malaith all experienced Australian actors.

It is an Australian film with a comedy, crime, drama classification and runs for 97 minutes. It also contains infrequent course language. It has an Australian sense about it but the characters are universal.

The film contains no political correctness which was appreciated by the audience of VFFS members who viewed it with me. We gave it a Star Box Score of 3.75 and all agreed it was a film worth viewing.

Our view was it was very professionally produced on what was probably a small budget. We all enjoyed it and the discussion we had was lively.

The film received an honourable mention at the Sunset Film Festival Los Angeles in 2013.

Review by Ian Davidson

When Mclean has a health scare and is taken to hospital he wonders if his three adult children and their wives are really interested in his health or are they more focussed on his money? So with a little help from his newly acquired crime-boss friend – another hospital inmate – sets up a scheme to test their loyalty and honesty. He feigns a life threatening illness and hints at a change to his will, but to his surprise his three sons don't seem particularly concerned about the money.

Mclean's health situation is set up quickly but the background story of the sons and their financial situations take a little longer to develop. But once we have met all the family and are aware of their problems, we get into the real meat of the story and it moves along well. Several amusing situations develop as the best laid plans come unstuck and the story borders on slapstick at some points – but the tone is kept light at all times when it could so easily become too sentimental.

Most acting is believable but the situations and unlikely coincidences ask a lot for the viewer to accept. There are some plot points that should not be examined too closely, but if you are prepared to overlook some of the detail, the film is quite entertaining.

A definite improvement on Lawson's first film "Little Lies" but probably on a par with his second, "Blue Lies".

“The fine performances by all the cast members likewise make this very much a riveting slice-of-life, with Szeps and Gubbay as the family patriarchs being especially memorable. The technical work, including Ben Allan’s cinematography, is first-class. The wide green paddocks and small suburban backyards show the different worlds of the people and what they wish for.

McLean’s Money shows just what Newcastle people can do when in front of the cameras and I’m proud of their work.”

Ken Longworth.



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