



## BORDERLINES FILM FESTIVAL

### **HOARD (15)**

Director: Luna Carmoon

Starring: Hayley Squires, Joseph Quinn, Saura Lightfoot Leon, Lily-Beau Leach  
UK, 2023, 2 hours 6 minutes, English

A social realist psychodrama of amour fou here in this fiercely intense and often macabre tale from feature first-timer Luna Carmoon, showing how suppressed childhood trauma blossoms into a secret theatre of adult dysfunction and delusion, but it's also a story in which Carmoon finds the possibility of redemption and escape. *Hoard* is all the more intriguing for being a very personal project for Carmoon, something made clear in what appears to be an analogue-video home movie clip over the closing credits. – **The Guardian**

Cinematographer Nanu Segal's handheld camerawork captures the fearless Lightfoot Leon returning to the state of nature that Maria equates with love. Carmoon may nod to the ideas of a trauma response, but she is not interested in neat pathologising, for this is a film camped out in the mystery of what really turns us on. – **TimeOut**

Luna Carmoon is certainly a director to keep an eye on. This is an audacious feature debut that shows a director champing at the bit to throw even more bizarre imagery at you. Fantastic performances abound, with Leon an up-and-coming star and Quinn firmly breaking out of the Eddie Munson shadow. – **Collider**

With its rangy length of over two hours, an undeniable inertia sets in, yet it feels like a consequence of Carmoon naturally sorting her way through the material she's generated, impervious to what a producer or funder might decree as "too much". With its retro but not regressive look back at past generations of British film (a trademark of its producer Anti Worlds), *Hoard* is a homegrown, spirited affair, with its overflowing branches never pruned, and always studded with thorns. – **Cineuropa**

Preview courtesy of Vertigo Releasing

Notes compiled by Holly Dennison

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