



# Nick Prescott's Reviews

## **Confetti**

Talent: Alison Steadman, Jessica Stevenson, Martin Freeman, Olivia Colman, Stephen Mangan.

Date of review: Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> August, 2006.

Director: Debbie Isitt

Classification: M (Mature)

Duration: 100 minutes

We rate it: Three stars.

With both *Confetti* and the new Australian mockumentary *Kenny* set to hit our screens in the next few weeks, the fictional documentary is about to experience something of a resurgence in our fair city. During the last ten years, this odd (and easy to produce) genre has blossomed to the point that in both the film and television arenas there have been some astonishing successes made of inexpensive though brilliantly conceived “fly on the wall” fictions. Christopher Guest and co have carved a satirical niche in the US with films like *Best in Show*, *Waiting for Guffman* and *A Mighty Wind*, while in the UK Ricky Gervais made television comedy history with the inspired and excruciatingly discomfiting *The Office*.

With *Confetti*, British filmmaker Debbie Isitt has taken a large helping of inspiration from both Gervais and the Guffman crew, and has made a film that takes enjoyable satirical swipes at reality television and middle-class English society. The result is simple, wonderfully performed, and often very funny indeed.

The premise of *Confetti* is that we are watching the record of a trio of London couples as they prepare and rehearse their own “high concept” weddings, the final performances of which will be filmed as a group before a studio audience. This is all taking place as part of a competition whose winner will be chosen by the hopelessly selfish and corrupt bridal magazine that is “sponsoring” the competition. With eyes on advertising income and an increase in revenue, the magazine’s editors enlist wedding planners, choreographers and lawyers to ensure that the right couple wins and that the bottom line is observed at all times.

What *Confetti* is really about is the complexity of the human ego. As the flawed and self-obsessed bunch of everyday people struggle to work together and produce the wedding extravaganza, staggering selfishness, delusion, hypocrisy and avarice are all exposed, with the result that most of the people on screen are either utterly detestable or wonderfully ridiculous. It must be said that none of the ludicrous behaviour we see onscreen is particularly difficult to render amusing (any self-respecting human being would find the antics of most of *Confetti*'s characters wincingly awful) but the performers make a great fist of it, and the energy is kept up at all times. From the hilariously camp wedding planners to the victory-obsessed sporting couple, there are more caricatures than one could throw a garter at, and they're all pretty funny to behold. For audiences interested in nicely-timed satire and warmly comic depictions of human awfulness, *Confetti* is most certainly worth a look.

Nick Prescott