



## SHAME

REVIEW BY JAMES MADDEN

**S**teve McQueen's *Shame* became unfairly synonymous with full frontal male nudity well ahead of its theatrical release. While the film stars Michael Fassbender as a sex addict, it substantially chronicles addiction, the compulsions that cripple its afflicted inhabitants and the descent that environs it all.

Brandon (Fassbender) lives a routine life. He is an addict and is constantly looking for his fix. By controlling particular aspects of his life through well guarded privacy and detailed rituals, Brandon manages to maintain some composure through his affliction. That is until wild sister Sissy (Carey Mulligan) emerges and turns order into chaos.

McQueen has made a fundamentally flawless film. The opening scene, where Brandon slowly seduces a female passenger on the New York City subway, is captivating. Flirtatious and eager, the underlining score by Harry Escott is broodingly dark and foreboding, warning of the self-destruction that will follow.

With a screenplay from McQueen and Abi Morgan (*The Iron Lady* – yeah, I know!), *Shame* is a landmark in modern filmmaking. Brutally honest and unflinching, it features astounding performances from the talented and restrained Fassbender and the wonderfully delinquent Mulligan.

*Shame is rated R18+ and was released theatrically in Australia on February 9 through Transmission Films.*