

## The Hunter

Australia 2011

**Directed by**  
Daniel Nettheim

**Writing credits**

Alice Addison  
Wain Fimeri  
Daniel Nettheim  
Based on the novel by  
Julia Leigh

**Cinematography**  
Robert Humphreys

**Music**

Andrew Lancaster  
Michael Lira  
Matteo Zingales

**Cast**

*Martin*  
Willem Dafoe  
*Lucy*  
Frances O'Connor  
*Jack*  
Sam Neill  
*Sass*  
Morgana Davies

102 min

**Our next screening...**

We're delighted to announce we'll return to Winchester Science Centre in September for our 14/15 season!

Many thanks to all our members for your fantastic support during our first season at this new venue. And also many thanks to all the staff at Winchester Science Centre who have made us very welcome. We look forward to seeing you again in a few months. Have a great summer!

Perhaps it's his hawk's beak or eagle eyes, but there's something outdoorsy about Willem Dafoe. He's always exposed himself to trials by the elements, whether as versions of Christ or in *Antichrist*. He's often portrayed roving field operatives who look like they need a decent night's sleep. You could suit Dafoe up and chain him to a desk, but he wouldn't look comfortable. He's very good in *The Hunter*, a ruggedly gorgeous, interestingly oblique Australian drama. There's a gripping moral weight to the questions of survival and profiteering the story raises, and the worryingly inexact moment when our interest in endangered species tips over into thoughts of human gain. The Tasmanian landscapes, sublime but not without a brutal menace of their own, are undoubtedly another star, and one worth drinking in on the big screen: the desolate grandeur of the backdrop, and the piercing sadness of Dafoe's final confrontation, need scale to hit home.

Tim Robey *The Telegraph*

Hunting is a longstanding metaphor in the movies. From the great explorer films of the early years such as *The Lost World* and *King Kong*, through to westerns, and later classics such as *The Deer Hunter* and *White Hunter Black Heart*, directors have used nature and the chase to depict man confronting his inner self, wrestling with his wild ego and his civilised id. The latest of these is *The Hunter*, an Australian film set entirely in one of the last great wildernesses, Tasmania. Not to be confused with Steve McQueen's last film of the same name (although I'm sure echoes are intended), it's based on a book by Julia Leigh, the writer who made her own debut as a film-maker at Cannes in 2011 with the neo-feminist erotic curio *Sleeping Beauty*. Thankfully, where *Sleeping Beauty* was all cold, hard stares in airless rooms, *The Hunter*, directed by Daniel Nettheim, is glorious in its widescreen, weather-lashed treatment of the great outdoors. Willem Dafoe, an actor we see all too rarely in lead roles, is superb as the titular hunter. Nettheim, working with the impressive cinematography of Robert Humphreys (whose work I first noticed on the 2004 Cate Shortland film *Somersault*), hones it into an existential-crisis film: a story about the loneliness of the long-distance hunter, about man against the elements and his own feelings of mortality.

Jason Solomons *The Observer*



Voting for *Wild Bill*: A-41 B-9 C-5 D-0 E-1 Rating: 89.7% Attendance: 59