
HELSINKI INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL 2013 THE MISTAKES OF YOUTH

What Richard Did (2012) 88 min

What Richard did is an adaptation of Kevin Power's book "Bad Day In Blackrock" with a screenplay from Malcolm Campbell and directed by Lenny Abrahamson. The film follows the titular Richard (Jack Reynor) an 18 year old golden-boy passing away the summer between finishing high school and starting college. Richard is the star of the rugby team and is the dominant alpha male, surrounded by his affluent upper-middle class in suburban Dublin, commonly referred to as D4 youngsters, they get their name from the area's postal code. The movie begins with the youth enjoying the summer and partying together, we are quickly made aware that Richard has the respect and admiration of his peers. Things go horribly wrong one night when Richard is involved in a fight with another boy (Conor / Sam Keeley), who is the ex-boyfriend of Richard's new girlfriend (Lara / Roisin Murphy). It isn't until the following morning, when Richard over hears a news-broadcast telling that a youth has died due to wounds from a fight at a house-party the night before. As the news of Conor's death spreads throughout the community, it becomes clear that it threatens to destroy Richard's life.

Director Lenny Abrahamson gets strong performances from his young cast, in particular Reynor's performance is layered and realistic as he tries to deal with actions and his guilt. Abrahamson avoids being overly sympathetic or judgmental in his handling of the story. This intelligent drama will stay with you even after the credits have rolled.

Verdict: One to watch