



Shame

Spring
Season
2012

Release: 2011

Cert (UK): 18

Runtime: 101 minutes

Director: Steve McQueen

Cast: Michael Fassbender, Carey Mulligan

"Shame" is a dispassionate treatment of a disturbing topic, and therein lies its power. Sexually graphic yet made with a restraint that's both unflinching and unnerving, this is a psychologically claustrophobic film that strips its characters bare literally and figuratively, leaving them, and us, nowhere to hide.



Directed by Steve McQueen (*'Hunger'*) from a script he co-wrote with Abi Morgan. (Abi Morgan may be better known as the scriptwriter for *'The Iron Lady'* and the television adaptation of *'Birdsong'*.) *Shame* is the story of the obsessive behaviour of a man addicted to sexual activity and demands an actor willing to completely reveal himself emotionally as well as physically. In Michael Fassbender, "Shame" has gotten exactly that. And in Carey Mulligan, Fassbender has an equally powerful and uncompromising co-star.

Recorded in explicit but never pornographic detail, this is some of the most joyless sex ever put on screen, a compulsion to climax in which emotional connection plays no part. It's the fixation of a tortured individual aghast at the self-destructiveness of his addiction but unable to change his actions or escape the shame they cause.

