

Honey Boy

(Photo Credit: Imdb)

Whether it is portraying a young, fraudulent salesman (**American Honey**) or a loner fisherman on the run (**The Peanut Butter Falcon**), LaBeouf always manages to outdo himself. However, it is in documentary film-maker Alma Ha'rel's fiction debut where the accomplished actor offers his most honest yet challenging role so far.

What started out as an exercise for a court mandated treatment became an autobiographical script and an impassioned attempt to reconcile with the demons of his own childhood. LaBeouf plays his own dad, a self therapeutic performance of an unscrupulous alcoholic who uses his kid's payroll as his sole form of income. It is an incarnation of bitterness with a pinch of compassion.

We are firstly introduced to the young, troubled Otis Lort (**Lucas Hedges**) on the set of a big-budget Hollywood film (a subtle allusion to LaBeouf's Transformers years) and after a night filled with alcohol, sex and instinctive anger, Lort gets arrested and ultimately enters a rehabilitation centre. It is from here where the film consistently jumps back and forth to Otis's past as a 12-year old child actor (**Noah June**) in sitcoms. Great part of the film deals with Jame's and Otis's complex relationship in their tiny motel room in San Fernando Valley where time seems inevitably stopped.

Jupe is simply phenomenal as young Otis, striving vigorously to empathise with his dad and handling the complexity of his role with shocking ease. Hedges manages to capture the rebellious essence of years of resentment and anger, and LaBeouf is dauntingly good as his own dad. It is a film that delicately depicts how the scars of childhood endure through time and succesively shape who we are. Good job LaBeouf.