

## GOLDEN ARCHER

Jesse Archer tackles the 'gay cliché' with spectacular results in the romantic comedy, *A Four Letter Word*.

For Jesse Archer, portraying Luke, a promiscuous, unapologetic, in-your-face, 'gay cliché' in the film *A Four Letter Word*, was never going to be a problem. In fact, he wouldn't have it any other way.

"I felt it's high time that we have a 'gay cliché' that discovers it's okay to be just that," Jesse tells AXN. "You don't need to change yourself; just be yourself. All that, and you don't have to die at the end. Imagine!"

*A Four Letter Word*, part of this year's Melbourne Queer Film Festival, follows a group of friends who navigate the complex waters of love, sex and friendship in modern day New York.

"Overall, the characters are dealing with being true to themselves," Jesse says. "Luke ends up falling for a hustler – Stephen – and I think the reason he was attracted to Luke is because Luke is so unabashedly, in-your-face true to who he is. That's attractive to people who hide."

Indeed. And it was also this brazen temperament that attracted the painfully good looking actor to the character of Luke.

"I wanted to follow the story of a slut and sort of humanise him a little bit," Jesse says. "Make him more than just a punchline. Some people don't get much more than that in a character like Luke, but for me it's interesting to scratch a little beneath the surface, to read between the lines. We all have a truth to tell."

A bonafide crowd pleaser, *A Four Letter Word* has won a host of awards in the gay film festival circuit.

The film marks the fourth cinematic outing for Jesse, whose credits also include a cameo in the 2006 hit, *Boy Culture*. Jesse also writes a monthly column for US magazine *Out*, and published a travel memoir, *You Can Run: Gay, Glam and Gritty Travels in South America*. He also co-wrote *A Four Letter Word* with director Casper Andreas, a collaborative relationship which began with 2004's *A Slutty Summer*.

"To Casper and I, we were turning the notion of a four letter word upside-down," Jesse says. "We wanted to show that sometimes what's natural for others can be profane. At least to Luke. At least at first. We did force him, of course, to fall in L-O-V-E." **AXN**

– Reg Domingo

*A Four Letter Word*, presented in the Melbourne Queer Film Festival, is screening on March 7 and March 15 at the Australian Centre for the Moving Image. For times and tickets, visit [melbournequeerfilm.com.au](http://melbournequeerfilm.com.au).

