

WALL STREET: MONEY NEVER SLEEPS

*A Twentieth Century Fox Presentation
An Edward R. Pressman Production
An Oliver Stone Film*

Film reviewed by Franco P. Visse

If ever there was a topic of which I know very little, it is that of the world economy and the high-stakes game of investments, take-overs and stock exchanges. *Wall Street: Money Never Sleeps* is a follow-up to the 1987 block-buster *Wall Street* by the same producer, Edward R. Pressman and famed film-maker Oliver Stone. Gordon Gekko (played in both films by Michael Douglas) is a greedy, self-centred and rather ruthless broker and corporate raider, who use everyone and everything he can in order to make money, lots and lots of money. With his motto "Greed is good" Gekko seems to have an affinity for young up-starts in the brokerage world. In the current film Gekko manipulates his way back into the life of his daughter, Winnie (played by Carey Mulligan), after serving an 8 year prison sentence for insider-trading and money-laundering.

Enter Jake Moore (played by Shia LaBeouf), Winnie's fiancée who idolizes Gekko and who is soon caught up in Gekko's games and manipulation. Moore's mentor Louis Zabel (played by Frank Langella) takes his own life after rumours started by Bretton James (played by Josh Brolin), a rival in the financial world, cause Zabel's destruction and ruin. Gekko and James share a past, and Moore is used by both to further their respective causes and hidden agendas. James played a part in getting Gekko caught and sent to prison, and Gekko is not a man who forgives easily. Moore is adamant in finding out who



is to blame for Zabel's suicide in the midst of the global economic melt-down that started in the United States at the end of 2007.

Both *Wall Street* and the 'follow-up' *Wall Street: Money Never Sleeps* share many similarities in the storyline. The antagonist remains Gordon Gekko, the 'victims' are young Wall Street traders (Bud Fox - played by Charlie Sheen in the 1987 film - and Jake Moore in the current film), both having a parent who is in some form of crisis and drawn into the story's plot. Fast women, fast cars, extraordinary high life-styles and 'back-stabbing' characterises both films. Viewing the *Wall Street* films in succession was a rather entertaining experience, but it left me none the wiser as to how *Wall Street*, or any financial institution and the world

economy as a whole functions, suffice to say that speculation seems to be a powerful financial strategy, and no one person or corporation or whatever can be absolutely trusted in the money game. The film also makes one realise just how fortunate we are to not be working in such an environment. Personally I am quite happy to be a Psychologist, and to remain as such until the end of my days. Worthwhile entertainment, even if just to see how the 'Jones's' live – that is the Dow Jones! Oscar season has once again passed, and I hope to review 'The King's Speech' for you in the next issue of the *Journal*. Enjoy!