



Savages Crossing

After nearly 40 years in the game, Oz-ploitation veteran John Jarratt still makes for a convincing psychopath. His reputation is such that he was asked to make a cameo in "Django Unchained," alongside Quentin Tarantino, as an employee of the Le Quint Dickie Mining Co. (Unlike Jarratt, Tarantino had to fake his Aussie accent.) In "**Savages Crossing**," which he wrote with his son, Cody, Jarratt plays a man driven crazy by the thought that his estranged wife and son are trying to steal money from him. Phil catches up with them in rural pub, which has become a refuge for travelers stranded by flooding caused by a lingering storm. Being a bully, boor and alcoholic, he quickly alienates himself from everyone else in the pub. Phil's rage extends to a cop who comes in late and, if anything, is louder and more profane than he is. Fortunately, an Outback cowboy takes it upon himself to quiet things down, even as the storm rages outside. Director Kevin James Dobson's best asset in "Savages Crossing" is the weather, which is as threatening as any of the human characters. – Gary Dretzka

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