

Port-a-loo humour

Kenny keeps laughs coming

By **LISA KITHER,**
ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

AFTER watching Kenny — the new Aussie comedy about a port-a-loo plumber — I suffered great guilt for every nasty comment I'd ever made about the state of festival toilets.

Kenny Smyth is that plumber. And proud of it.

His movie is labelled a “mockumentary” but Kenny (played by Shane Jacobson) said it was “just like somebody reading my diary out loud”.

“There’s no surprises for me

because it’s my life and I live it. It would’ve been nice for them to pretend I flew a rocket to the moon but they can’t do that cause it’s a story of my life. It shows me for who I am: a little bit warts and all, and that’s fine by me,” he said.

He said Kenny was a film about average people, so average people should enjoy it as he was the same as most Aussie blokes.

“It’s got my head in it, so I guess you’d call it a horror,” he joked.

“But I guess people might identify with me because I’m like the

guy next door or the people over the road ... the thing is, if people can go and see this, it’s like all the waitresses and mechanics, air hostesses, cleaners and single mothers who are doing it tough, they should be able to see this film and realise that just because people look down on you doesn’t mean you’re less of a person.

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PROUD PLUMBER: Join Shane Jacobson as Kenny in this fly-on-the-toilet-bowl look at life from the other end of the pipes.

Warts and all Kenny

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“And just because people frown at you when they find out what you do it doesn’t make them any better than you.

“After all, for most of the jobs that people frown at, if it wasn’t being done they’d have an even bigger frown. I tell people I plumb toilets and if they frown I have to remind them that they’d be much worse off if they couldn’t find a toilet when they needed one.”

In the film Kenny and his crew at Splashdown cop abuse, insults and ignorance from all sectors where they tackle every challenge in the septic spectrum.

And while he also has to roll with life’s other punches — family tensions of a difficult ex-wife, ageing father and growing son — it’s surprising to see so much dignity carried on his big shoulders.

“I’m OK with who I am and that’s probably due to my mum,” he said.

“She helped me realise that everyone should have a great sense of pride because no matter what you’re doing, whether it’s raising kids, holding down a job or paying off a mortgage and you’re doing all right, you should be proud.”

His story is inspiring and there’s even a new love interest that he meets on the way to the Mecca of waste

management — or “poo HQ” as Kenny calls it — the International Pumper and Cleaner Expo in Nashville, Tennessee.

It’s also full of sensational quotes that are sure to find their way into the Aussie vernacular and an overwhelming funny and heartwarming story as many cheer this knight in shining overalls at

the movie’s end.

While this fly-on-the-toilet-bowl look at life from the other end of the pipes is a sure-fire winner with the fellas, it may take a little bit to warm up some female viewers, with some noting it feels like a plodding pace, reflecting the nature of Kenny.

But if, like me, you’ve spent hours of your life in toilet lines, this will surely have you thinking twice before one more complaint about the state of your port-a-loo, and Kenny said he hoped people just went along to enjoy a new story.

Movie: Kenny

Stars: Shane Jacobson, Eve Von Bibra, Ronald Jacobson, Jesse Jacobson, Chris Davis, Ian Dryden, Morihiko Hasebe

Rated: M

Director: Clayton Jacobson

Running TIME: 1hr 50min

Reviewer: Lisa Kither

Verdict: ★★☆☆



BE PROUD: Kenny is a sure-fire winner with the fellas.