



# Film Review by Stephen Tate

## The Mule

### Clint Eastwood

Octogenarian Clint Eastwood continues to direct and act in films that are different and hold our interest. His film 'The Mule', available on DVD, was inspired by a Sam Dolnick article in the New York Times Magazine called "The Sinaloa Cartel's 90-Year-Old Drug Mule."

It is a thriller that leaves you strangely sympathetic for the activities of an aged person participating in the transport of drugs into the USA, despite the evil outcomes from the practice. It is a conflicted and sometimes very funny study on what people want for themselves, and how easy it is to forget the impacts and consequences of your actions.

The character he plays is Earl Stone. Earl is a flower grower who is losing his house and garden to foreclosure due to price undercutting competition from online internet suppliers. In dire financial straits, he accepts a job making deliveries from El Paso to Chicago for a drug cartel. The money is good and all goes well until the end. His changing relationship with his estranged daughter and dying wife make a delicate balance with the drug trade and people he becomes involved with.



The Police Drug Squad try their best to identify and catch him in a catnd mouse game.Eastwood plays around with Earl's age and temperament. Earl frequently seems out of touch, naive, blinkered, confused and backward, getting himself into uneasy situations from which he plays the old age card to be excused. He innocently does and says inappropriate things that would never be tolerated in younger people. In reality, Earl is a rogue who effectively conceals that he is a cunning manipulator under a crusty old and weathered manner.



The Mule [Australia]  
Distributed by Roadshow Entertainment,  
2019. Region 4  
Starring Clint Eastwood

