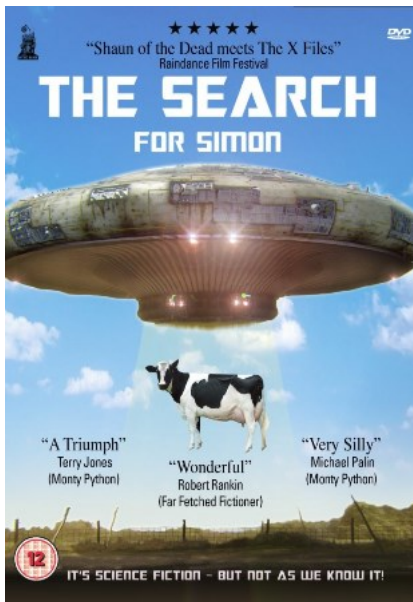


Review of The Search for Simon

Wed, 08 Oct 2014

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British Film Review: The Search For Simon

Directed By Martin Gooch

The Search For Simon tells the story of David's quest to find his brother, Simon, whom he believes was abducted by aliens. Using a small lottery win, he's abandoned a normal life and dedicated his every waking moment to finding the truth about alien abductions in the hope that one day he'll find his brother. Amidst his quest he has a mother who has lost hope that David will one day settle down with a normal job and find a girl. He has friends who meet to play "war-games" but who are growing weary of David single-minded focus on all things alien.

When we met David, he's just received another tip off regarding an alien encounter in Denmark, thanks to his long term source "AlienfromArcturus". And so he sets off on yet another futile adventure desperately trying to find the truth.

'The Search For Simon' is pitched as comedy. Using a mockumentary style, we're introduced to David as a vlogger who records his experiences and encounters, hoping to shed light on the truth. The initial scene sets the tone, as David and his friends roll through the British countryside in a tank, recreating the Second World War. Initially you can be forgiven for thinking this is a flashback – that some alien encounter is going to occur to these soldiers as they battle the Germans. But unexpectedly the film skews these expectations, breaking our illusions and delivering the films funniest scene.

The approach continues throughout as the film attempts to find itself in a way similar to David trying to find his brother. You'd be forgiven for going into 'The Search For Simon' expecting a science fiction film, but in truth it's not. It may be a film about one man's dream to meet aliens and find his brother, but for the most part there is little science fiction on display. Instead, and more interestingly, it's a film about discovering the truth in one's past and how events can destroy a family and often the truth is so hard to accept that we create delusions that can dictate and dominate our lives and relationships.

In the film's most affecting moments, we flashback to David's childhood, where his father is revealed as a drunk who seemingly, in David's eyes anyway, loves his brother Simon more than him. Slowly, as the story unfolds we begin to learn the truth of Simon's disappearance

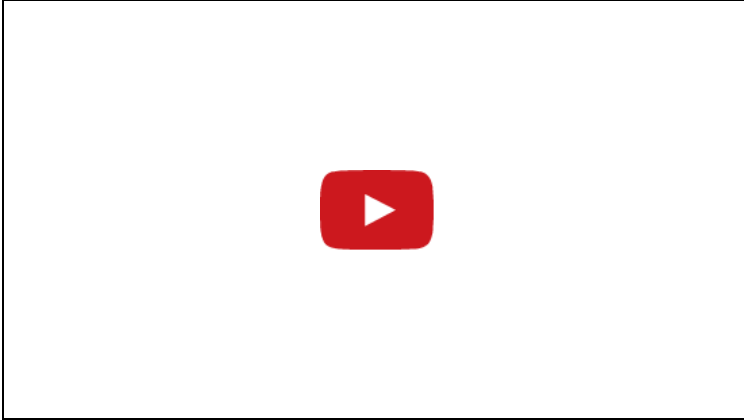
and it is much more tragic than alien abduction.

Unfortunately, none of the disparate parts of 'The Search For Simon' really come to together. It's characters are not well formed or engaging, its rarely funny, the story won't appeal to science fiction aficionados and the theme and story never really sit well together. It's a film which doesn't really know what it wants to be.

'The Search For Simon' is released on DVD on 13th October 2014

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