



Synopsis: 30 years ago, David's younger brother Simon disappeared without a trace and has never been seen since. David is still looking, and the search for Simon has become his life.

[Imaginary gabble smack] "Motion carried, now piss off! I'm eating cheese ... and drinking wine."

You know that thing where you're avoiding watching a film because the trailer looks kind of ... well, naff, but then you finally get around to watching it and then want to go back in time and slap past-you for being such a judgemental twerp because the film is actually amazing? I've welcomed **The Search For Simon** into my list of that type of film and now I couldn't be happier to recommend this absolutely barmy indie (like, there's a full-on, spare-change-in-between-the-sofa's-cushions kind of budget) effort to anyone who will listen.

Most low-budget, British sci-fi films that concern themselves with space or aliens ring on the Douglas Adams doorbell and *The Search For Simon* does so occasionally, with its pragmatic characters poking our funny bones with their simultaneous quirkiness. Lucky for us, director-writer-cameraman-actor-editor-everything'er **Martin Gooch** seems to have also been heavily influenced by the off-beat humour of Monty Python and he wields this infusion of respectively aberrant comedy stylings with his own home-turf, spur of the moment guerrilla filmmaking technique to create a super awesome part-mockumentary/part-candid sci-fi dramedy.

Bringing Gooch's series of eccentric characters to life are the little-knowns **Millie Reeve**, **Julian Bastida**, **Simon Birks**, **Noeleen Comiskey** and **Sophie Aldred**, who each add an earnest authenticity to the production that reminds one of the ensemble of weirdos that made *Spaced* so great.

The Search For Simon isn't mind-blowing filmmaking for sure – Gooch's cinematography and post-production editing skills leave a lot to the imagination but you're so caught up in his snappy dialogue, whip-crack humour and over-dramatized production and narrative quirks that it's hard to even consider rating the film based on it's less alluring merits.

Seriously, if British sci-fi pumped full of creative passion is your thing get *The Search For Simon* in you as soon as you can; if we give Gooch all the DVD-related financial support we can we might be blessed with

more of his off-centre comedic genius in the near future!

The Search For Simon is released on DVD on 29th September

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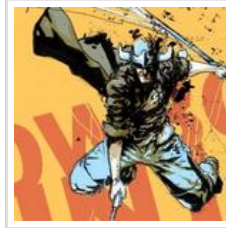
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