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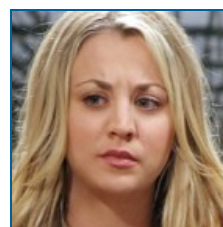
'The Search for Simon' Review

October 13, 2014

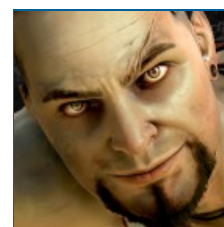
It should come as no surprise when I make a statement like the movie business is all about money, especially when making big Hollywood blockbusters. Looking at lower budget films though you tend to find movies that are made for the love of the subject, whether it be serious or just a little geeky. They want to make money from all the hard work put into it of course, but they do more to stand out. *The Search for Simon* is a film that is born out of a love of British sci-fi and comedy, and that is where its charm lies.

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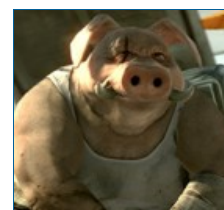


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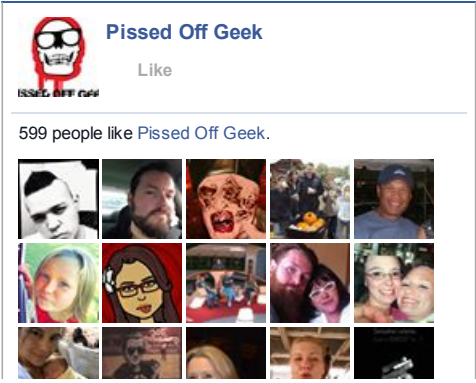
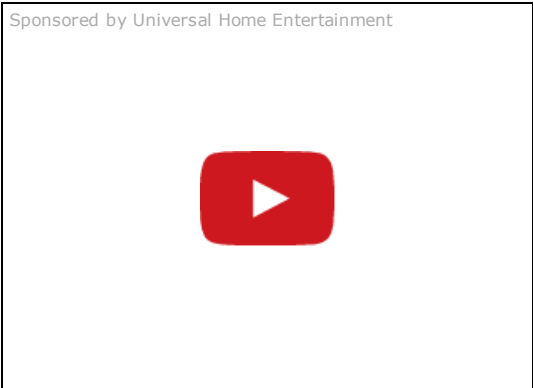
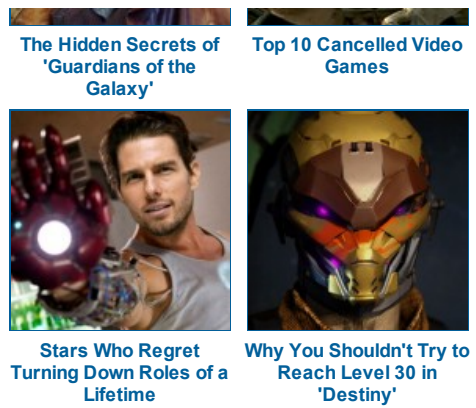


Thirty years ago David's (Martin Gooch) brother Simon vanished without a trace, seemingly kidnapped by aliens. Ever since the disappearance David has been looking for his brother and the aliens that stole him away, never really getting on with his life, instead giving his all to discovering just what has happened to his brother.

The Search for Simon is a sweet movie because although it has the pretence of being a sci-fi film it is in fact more about the character of David than any aliens that may or may not be out there. David is in fact running away from the truth not seeking it and this is not hard to work out. To get to the realisation of this though we first must get to know who David is and what has shaped his life. To his friends he is selfish and immature, to his mother his is just strange, but there is an endearing quality to the man who clings to his love of all things science fiction and extra-terrestrial.

In this hunt *The Search for Simon* also adds something a little fun for British comedy and sci-fi fans, and that is the cameo appearances and references. Fans of Doctor Who and the Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy television series (and radio show) will instantly recognise people like Sophie Alred, Simon Jones and Carol Cleveland (think Monty Python for her). There are also plenty of references to be found for those who know what to look for. It all adds to the fun of the movie, with the important thing for the audience being to not take it all too seriously. If you are looking for a more serious science fiction tale, then look somewhere else. This is a film obviously made by fans of sci-fi in the hope that others will enjoy it too, and that is what makes it fun.

Another point is to not take a film like *The Search for Simon* and compare it to



Another point is to not take a film like *The Search for Simon* and compare it to a big budget Hollywood movie, it never tries to be that and never should. This is small budget film making with a more personal feel to the tale, it manages to actually be touching as well as funny. David may start off as a strange little man you don't really understand, but as you grow to know him you feel both pity and respect for the journey he is on, even if it annoys those around him. Should he grow up and finally end his search for his brother? The answer probably is yes but it is something the character has to do in his own time.

Independent movies often have their own style and do often advertise the fact that they have a low-budget, and it's fair to say *The Search for Simon* does do this, but not in a negative way. Give it a chance and watch it with your geek hat on and you may find its sense of humour, cheeky sci-fi references and cameo appearances are just what you were looking for.

The Search for Simon is out now in the UK on DVD.

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Summary

The Search for Simon is a fun little heart-warming film that has a love for British sci-fi and comedy. More than just a silly hunt for aliens it's more about the main character than any extraterrestrial kidnappers, though they never seem far away.

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★★★★★

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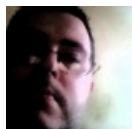
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