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DVD Review: The Search For Simon

by [Ed Nightingale \(http://sosogay.co.uk/author/ed-nightingale/\)](http://sosogay.co.uk/author/ed-nightingale/)

30 Sep 2014

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READER RATING: (0 VOTES)



David is your stereotypical geek. At 39 years old, he still lives at home in Swindon with his mother, drives an old car, has trouble holding down any form of friendship or relationship, and has a bedroom filled with sci-fi paraphernalia bought after a small win on the lottery. He's a ufologist and passionate vlogger, but, as he tells us in voiceover, it's not a particularly glamorous lifestyle - though he does get to visit a remote island in Denmark.

The reason for his interest in UFOs? He runs the Search For Simon Foundation, after his younger brother Simon was abducted by aliens at the age of seven. Finding Simon is his mission, his one life goal, his obsession.



<http://sosogay.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/SFS-chase-masterson-300dpi.jpeg>

In this low budget and very British comedy from writer-director Martin Gooch (who also plays the protagonist), David's mundane life is heightened to the level of adventure. Aided by a mysterious American on webcam who may or may not be duping him, David excitedly explains his mission through his vlogs. Much of the action, meanwhile, is accompanied by an amusingly anachronistic orchestral soundtrack tinged with retro space effects (think *Doctor Who*). It's all very silly, filled with zany characters and slapstick schoolboy humour.

Of course, this isn't really a film about aliens at all. A chance meeting with a psychologist sparks a new narrative thread that allows us to see what's really going on inside David's head. He's a lonely man, trapped within his own obsessive mind. He has a dysfunctional relationship with his mother, while his friends turn their backs on him as they simply can't stand his constant chat about Simon any longer. In their words, he is an 'imbecile'.



<http://sosogay.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/SFS-Sophie-and-the-Tentacl-300dpi.jpeg>

It's clear Gooch has a very different agenda with this film than the superficial sci-fi spoof, but it's difficult to take the psychological elements seriously with such clichéd characters and silly humour that rarely hits the mark, whilst the eccentric music and shoddy special effects just come off as ridiculous. There's an earnest message about grief, but it's trapped inside a very different film – a bit like David himself. Gooch's performance is at times lovable, but it's easy to see why the character's friends are so exasperated with his search.

It should come as no surprise there's a love story shoehorned in after David meets Sally (Brooke Burfitt), a kindred spirit who seems bizarrely interested in David's plight. Yet she, like the rest of the supporting cast, is a one-note character. Worst of all is that the inevitable twist is easily predicted from very early on, which makes *The Search For Simon* a frustrating watch. Fans of films like *Shaun Of The Dead* may find some enjoyment here, but the humour level is just too niche to make for an enjoyable comedy.



The Search For Simon is available on DVD from 13 October and can be pre-ordered from [Amazon](http://www.amazon.co.uk/The-Search-Simon-Carol-Cleveland/dp/B00IXNTPY/) (<http://www.amazon.co.uk/The-Search-Simon-Carol-Cleveland/dp/B00IXNTPY/>). Assets courtesy of Gothic Manor Ltd.

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Londoner who loves all things music, theatre and film related. For more reviews, check out www.thegizzlereview.com.

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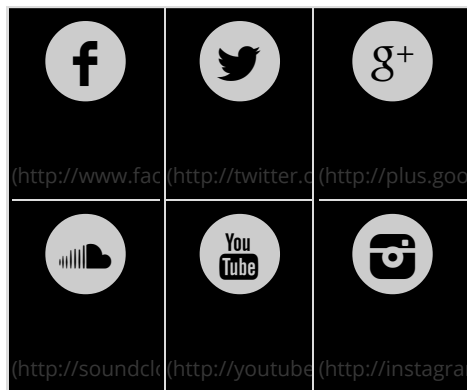
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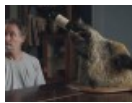


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