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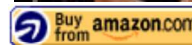
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Review by [Francis Rizzo III](#) | posted November 27, 2011 | [E-mail the Author](#)

In 10 Words or Less

Fun cast powers a quirky indie comedy



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Reviewer's Bias*

Loves: Quirky comedies

Likes: Jed Rees, Sara Rue, silly cameos

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Dislikes: the decline of the church in modern America

Hates: the concept of the celibate priest

The Movie

As a Lutheran, I've always viewed the priesthood in the Catholic church (along with other denominations) with a questioning eye, because I could never understand why they had to remain unmarried and celibate, when the pastors in my religion seemed to be doing a fine job tending their flock while maintaining their families. If anything, they could offer a more knowledgeable view of the human experience because they had a wider realm of experience to pull from. But hey, that's their religion, and as long as it doesn't lead to illegal activity (ahem), they are free to go that route. In fact, I hold anyone who devotes themselves to doing the Lord's work in rather high regard, until they work hard to lose it (ahem.)

So to watch the story of Father Robert (Jed Rees) unfold, is not entirely pleasing. A man of the cloth whose congregation has shrunk to a bare minimal, Robert is under pressure by his most active church-goers (who want to see him do more to promote the church) and his fellow priest Carl, who is tired of being the low man on the totem pole. Thus, when his absentee brother Alan (Will Sasso) arrives with word that he has cancer, he may not be of the soundest mind, and hands over tens of thousands of dollars from the church emergency fund to help him. Suffice to say, this was a bad idea, as Robert learns when he tracks down Alan in an attempt to get back the money, only to find out he accidentally helped produce a porno film.



Like any story about bad decisions, one leads to another and then another, and Robert finds himself stuck in his brother's world of porn. He needs his brother to make money on the film in order to pay back the church, especially when two of his church members get John Schneider (of *Dukes of Hazzard* fame) to agree to an expensive appearance at the church's upcoming festival. He's also become friendly with one of the porn stars named Candy (Sara Rue), who's taken a liking to Robert, despite the fact that he is unobtainable. Looking at her (something that's hard to not do when she's so on display) it's not hard to believe she would be a temptation, but Rees plays it just right as a man who truly believes in his calling, but can't ignore her attractiveness, a facet that only grows for him as she opens herself up to his lessons from the Bible.

The film, written by Jeff Lewis (Vork from *The Guild*) and directed by Jackson Douglas (*Family Guy Presents: Seth & Alex's Almost Live Comedy Show*), has a quirky sense of humor, populating Robert's world with some peculiar folks, including a pair of Freddie Mercury-loving church-goers (one played by Michael Hitchcock (*Waiting for Guffman*)) and a hilarious anti-masturbation mom (Alex Borstein), in a series of sketch-like moments at the start. Things only really get going though when Robert enters Alan's world, setting up all sorts of sexual hi-jinks for the good Father to combat, mostly via Candy's advances and questions about God. All these porn shenanigans make for easy laughs, but it's Rees who really earns them, thanks to his expressive face and good-natured persona (which were the same reasons he stole *GalaxyQuest*.)

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Meanwhile, Rue, who seems to have filmed this movie just before her well-publicized weight loss, brings such a bubbly feel to her porn star with a heart of gold that her potentially offensive exchanges with our hero priest come off as nearly adorable (though her direct come-ons are pure sex on a stick, complete with some spectacular nudity that the film initially teased, yet didn't seem prepared to deliver on.) One conversation, where she attempts to justify her porn work and ends up comparing Jesus to a pimp, and Rees' reactions to her, are almost worth the price of admission on their own.

Where the film doesn't work is unfortunately at the end, which really feels like more of a jumping-off point than a climax. The introduction of an interesting, if far-fetched new character and a possible new direction for the plot just leads to a sudden finale that's not satisfying enough. The set-up in the beginning and the interactions between Robert and Candy could probably be trimmed to bring this moment a bit earlier, and give the audience a look at what happens next, which seemed like a definite opportunity for more laughs and the chance to tie up a big loose end in Robert's motivations. Considering how well the rest of the set-ups in the film worked, this just left the movie feeling a bit incomplete.



The Disc

This film arrives on one DVD, in a standard keepcase. The disc features a static, full-frame main menu with options to watch the film, select scenes and check out the extras. There are no audio options, no subtitles and no closed captioning.

The Quality

The anamorphic widescreen transfer on this disc is pretty good for a low-budget indie film, as the sharp image shows plenty of fine detail, while offering up appropriate color and skintones, with very deep black levels. The image shows no issues with noise or digital artifacts either, even during darker scenes. Overall, this is a fine-looking film.

Presented with a Dolby Digital 2.0 audio track, the movie sounds good for the most part, though there are moments where there are shifts in the sound, and echoing that sounds like dialogue was recorded in a closet. Aside from those occasional flaws, the film offers a balanced, center-focused presentation, and the score and soundtrack are mixed well with the dialogue, creating a mostly distortion-free listening experience.

The Extras

Not much in terms of bonus features, as all there is is a pretty extensive automatic slideshow of on-set stills and the film's red-band trailer (which is a bit plodding and reveals a bit too much of the film), as well as some additional trailers for other Cinevolve films. I fully admit I want to watch every one of the movies seen in these previews.

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The Bottom Line

The suspension of disbelief required to stick with this story would be too much for most people, however the cast is so likable that it's easy to get sucked into the film and ignore the lack of realism, especially when it comes to Rees and Rue, two severely underrated comic actors. Though it looks and sounds good, there's not a lot else to this release, as the extras are light, but it's worth giving a look, especially if you miss the pre-weight-loss Rue, as she's on fine display in this film.

Francis Rizzo III is a native Long Islander, where he works in academia. In his spare time, he enjoys watching hockey, writing and spending time with his wife, daughter and Schnoodle.

[Check out 1106 - A Moment in Fictional Time](#) or his convention blog called [Conning Fellow](#)

**The Reviewer's Bias section is an attempt to help readers use the review to its best effect. By knowing where the reviewer's biases lie on the film's subject matter, one can read the review with the right mindset.*

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