

A COMMUNAL LIFE IN FILM AND DVD. EXAMINED

## Shared Darkness

### For Christ's Sake

Its tagline ("**Finally, a funny church sex scandal**") hints at something perhaps irredeemably coarse, but *For Christ's Sake* is a comedy very much in the vein of Kevin Smith's [Zack and Miri Make a Porno](#) and the more recent *A Good Old-Fashioned Orgy*, which is to say that it goes to considerable lengths to counterbalance the outrageousness of its premise with a healthy dollop of heart.

After inheriting control of his parish's top ministerial spot, much to the chagrin of rival man-of-the-cloth Carl (Matt Champagne), earnest small town priest Robert (Jed Rees) is paid a visit by his estranged, deadbeat brother Alan (Will Sasso), who tells him he's dying of cancer. Robert makes an impulsive decision to borrow \$54,000 from the church's emergency fund, to underwrite Alan's treatment. A couple weeks later, when the church needs some money to book John Schneider (yes, that John Schneider, playing himself) for the country fair, **Robert learns that Alan is using the money to finance a porn movie**, which makes him the unwitting producer.

As Carl digs around and starts to come close to discovering the truth about the money, a wildly uncomfortable Robert finds himself **the unlikely hub of advice and confession** for a crew and cast that includes Buster Cherry (Ike Barinholtz) and porn star Candy Walls ([Sara Rue](#)), the latter of whom develops a crush on him that it not entirely unrequited. Madcap complications ensue, naturally.

Written by Jeff Lewis and produced by Sasso, *For Christ's Sake* reunites a bunch of *MADtv* players, including Alex Borstein and Michael Hitchcock in smaller roles. Owing to this familiarity with one another, **the movie has a pleasant, jocular tone throughout, and doesn't spin off into campy excess**. The performances are engaging and well modulated with respect to each other, and if the movie doesn't reinvent the wheel neither does it have a need to. Fans of any/all of those involved will certainly appreciate this saucy, off-the-beaten-path little comic delight.

*For Christ's Sake* comes to DVD in a regular plastic Amaray case, on a region-free disc with a 5.1 surround sound audio mix that's honestly more than a bit lacking in its deeper registers. Partitioned into 15 chapters via a static menu screen, the disc's only bonus features consist of a five-minute photo montage scroll consisting of 98 pictures, as well as trailers for the movie and five other Cinevolve home video offerings. To purchase the DVD via Amazon, [click here](#). **B- (Movie) D+ (Disc)**



Posted by Brent Simon at [12/5/2011 7:20 AM](#)

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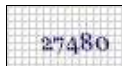
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