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Cleveland International Film Festival: 'Pig' happens, and happens again

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A man wakes up in a desert with a black hood over his head, his hands tied behind him. He has no idea how he got there. He cannot remember his name or his past. It's wicked hot. He shakes off the hood and starts walking. He has no idea where he's going.

From the strange opening moments of "Pig," we are off and running on a riveting adventure of confusion and identity. The man, played by Rudolf Martin ("NCIS"), is rescued by a woman who lives in Arizona with her son, and nursed back to health.

Slowly, the man starts piecing together fragments of his life and heads to Los Angeles in search of his former self. He finds his apartment and some people he used to know, or might have known. But flash-memories keep getting in the way, and he finds himself back in the desert, a new search awaiting.

Writer-director Henry Barrial ("True Love") has crafted a first-rate mystery-thriller with sci-fi elements. Saying much more about the plot would give too much away. But Barrial provides twists-a-plenty, and Martin delivers an excellent, layered performance in the always challenging who-am-I role.



Antic Pictures

Rudolf Martin stars as a man in search of his past in "Pig."

REVIEW

Pig

What: Feature directed by Henry Barrial (2011/USA). 89 minutes.

When: 11:15 p.m. Saturday, 9:40 p.m. Tuesday and 2:05 p.m. Wednesday in the Cleveland International Film Festival at Tower City Cinemas.

Grade: A-