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## Horror Fan Blog



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### Shriekfest 2011 Favorites

By Jonathan Weichsel



#### Pig:

**Pig**, written and directed by Henry Barrial, is a twisty little mystery about a man who wakes up in the desert with a hood over his head, his hands bound behind his back, and no memory of who he is.

He is taken in and nursed back to health by a woman who lives alone in the desert with her son. The two travel to Los Angeles together in order to uncover the mystery of his identity.

In Los Angeles, the man uncovers clues to his existence. Some of these clues seem planted, while others seem organic. Many clues contradict each other, some pointing in one direction, others pointing in a wildly different one. Mysteriously, at seemingly random times, his journey ends and he wakes up in the desert again, with no memory of anything that has transpired. Whenever he wakes up in the desert, a number flashes on the bottom left of the screen, 1.2, 1.3, etc. **Pig** ends with a sci-fi twist, which is hinted at right at the top of the film when we see a snippet of the man in an orange jumpsuit reading a legal waver into a camera.

**Pig** is an excellent, well-crafted film and has been playing the festival circuit for awhile. Many critics compare it to **Memento**, but while both are great films that deal with amnesia, there are more differences than similarities. **Memento** is a puzzle-box of a film, and while **Pig** presents a compelling mystery, the presentation is more straightforward. **Memento** takes memory and how it influences our perception of reality as its major theme. **Pig**, on the other hand, is about identity, and how our memories affect how we perceive ourselves.

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