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Posted by **Travis Keune** in *Film Festivals, General News, Indie, Science Fiction, SLIFF 2011* | 0 comments

PIG – SLIFF Review



"Pig" can be defined in many ways. A common farm animal, a person inclined to eat too much, a derogatory slang toward law enforcement, or a fitting short hand for a selfish, sexist man who hates every bone in a woman's body. None of these truly fit within the confines of the film PIG, which can lead an audience astray. The title is most likely derived from the ramblings of the main character in reflection on his own past behavior, but this plays only a supplementary role in this complex science-fiction story of one man's odyssey to regain his own mind.

Written and directed by Henry Barrial, PIG is as much a psychological thriller as it is science-fiction. This surely has its roots in Barrial's education in psychology, which comes through in the script. Rudolph Martin plays the nameless main character, who wakes up in the middle of the desert with his hands bound behind his back and a black hood on his head. It's not looking like a good day ahead. On the brink of death by dehydration, or worse, he passes out.

Flash forward a bit and our mystery man awakes in the home of a woman living alone in the desert. This woman found the man and has cared for him while unconscious. It is at this moment the man realizes he is suffering from a terrible case of amnesia, unaware of who he is or how he has come to be in this bizarre situation. What's abundantly clear to the audience, however, is that some is not right and bad things are sure to come. The Man, whose only lead in a slip of scrap paper reading "Manny Elder," begins an arduous struggle to regain some sense of self, to recover his memory, but leads him deeper into the rabbit hole (so to speak) than he ever imagined.

Rudolph Martin is not just convincing as the amnesiac man, but displays a range of tools in his acting utility belt that make the character that much more engaging. PIG can be classified as fitting the same general category science-fiction film as TOTAL RECALL or MINORITY REPORT, but without the action. On his journey, The Man encounters Manny Elder, played by Keith Diamond, a familiar face from several popular television series, and others who lead The Man to slowly piece the puzzle together.

PIG is a film that too easily can be spoiled, but what I can tell you is that nothing is what it seems, including The Man himself. PIG is not a traditionally structured film, presenting the story in a non-linear fashion that dissects time and shuffles the pieces into a complex puzzle, different but in a similar manner as Christopher Nolan's MEMENTO. PIG not only stands up to multiple viewings, but actually demands a second viewing to capture the story in it's entirety. I'm not suggesting its an impossibly complicated story to comprehend, but simply that PIG tells a story in such a fresh and entertaining fashion that you'll want to see it a second time.

Showtimes

Sunday, November 13th at 1:30pm – Tivoli Theatre

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from \$258 per person



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