



'Zenith' at top of its game

By Brett Michel | Friday, January 28, 2011 | <http://www.bostonherald.com> | [Movie Reviews](#)

Zenith: B

With "Zenith," "experiment supervisor" Vladan Nikolic aims high with his well-acted paranoid thriller whose dual narrative splits a run-down present with a dystopian 2044, a world populated by drones genetically manipulated to live in a haze of happiness.

Back in Obama-era Ameri-ca, Ed Alexander Crowley, a lapsed, scraggly Catholic priest (Jason Robards III), obsesses over a sprawling, centuries-old conspiracy — one that might explain what happened to the world in which his son, "Dumb Jack" Crowley (Peter Scanavino), lives.

But Jack is far from stupid — the former brain surgeon has been peddling expired pharmaceuticals on the black market to people desperate to feel something.

Jack's also an epileptic, his debili-tating seizures enabling him to understand words long forgotten by most everyone around him. Most, but not all.

Exotic dancer Lisa (sexy Spaniard Ana Asensio) attracts Jack with her command of language, though he admits, "I lie to myself when I say my interest in her is linguistic."

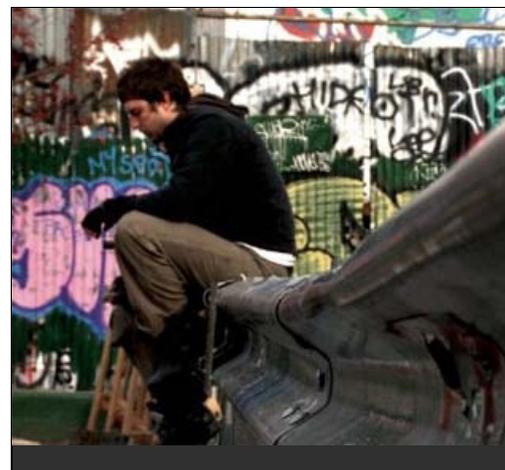
He does this through persistent voiceover narration, a device that helps smooth over a lack of scene transitions — one area that exposes the film's budgetary limitations.

Still, the use of dilapidated Brooklyn and Queens locations, creatively photographed by Vladimir Subotic, goes a ways toward selling a future not too far removed from ones en-vised by Philip K. Dick or J.G. Ballard.

Ed's fall from grace was precipitated by an increasing paranoia and theories about the people he believed were responsible for destroying words and their definitions. Before vanishing, he documented his findings on a series of videotapes, the first of which ends up in his son's hands some 40 years later. Thus begins Jack's quest to locate more tapes and piece together the mystery surrounding his father's disappearance.

("Zenith" contains nudity, sex and violence, sometimes simultaneously.)

Article URL: <http://www.bostonherald.com/entertainment/movies/reviews/view.bg?articleid=1312532>



blink FITNESS blinkfitness.com **free trial membership.** now open at cross county shopping center

[Contact us](#) | [Print advertising](#) | [Online advertising](#) | [Herald history](#) | [Send a news tip](#) | [Electronic edition](#) | [Browser upgrade](#) | [Home delivery](#) | [Mobile Edition](#)

[Save on Boston Herald Home Delivery](#)

[Jobs with Herald Media](#)

For back copy information and more information on other collectible copies please call 617-426-3000 Ext. 7714. [Click here for Celtics, Patriots and Red Sox back copies](#)



© Copyright by the Boston Herald and Herald Media.

No portion of BostonHerald.com or its content may be reproduced without the owner's written permission. [Privacy Commitment](#)