

Film

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by Rod Lott



Crime and science fiction collide in the inventive thriller “Zenith,” scheduled for a single showing at the Oklahoma City Museum of Art.

Friday

Contrary to the belief of film execs, not everyone hitting the cinemas at Christmastime wants to see Reese Witherspoon in a romantic comedy or Jack Black being tied up by little people.

For those seeking a decidedly different, off-off-Hollywood experience, you’ll get it — and then some — in “Zenith.”

The self-described “retro-futuristic steampunk thriller” plays locally for one showing only: 7:30 p.m. Thursday at the Oklahoma City Museum of Art, 415 Couch, so catch as catch can.

Directed by “Anonymous” (in reality, New York-based filmmaker Vladan Nikolic), “Zenith” takes place in 2010 and 2044, as Ed Crowley (Jason Robards III) pursues a modern-day conspiracy, leaving behind a tape for his son, Jack (Peter Scanavino), to puzzle out in the far future. Possessing a secret power, Jack peddles pain-inducing drugs on the black market when his world gets turned upside down by the arrival of Dad’s video; nine more must be found.

Throw in a few sex scenes with a beautiful dancer (Ana Asensio) along the deadly path, and Nikolic delivers a trippy, frontal-lobe screwer that plays like the illegitimate spawn of “,” “Memento” and “12 Monkeys.” While void of recognizable faces, the highly imaginative picture exudes slick visuals while harboring a fierce streak of independence.

Forever blurring the line between media, the “Zenith” experience continues after the credits, with specially created blogs, forums and YouTube videos designed to spiral viewers further down the film’s narrative rabbit hole. (Start at www.stopzenith.com and www.z-search.org.)

Tickets are \$8. For more information, call 236-3100 or visit www.okcmoa.com

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