



FETCHING CODY

Review by Angela Hovestead

Fetching Cody is a romantic comedy that takes place in Vancouver's Eastside Downtown. Art Frankel (Jay Baruchel) is a drug addict who discovers his girlfriend Cody Wesson (Sarah Lind) passed out and on the brink of death in her apartment. After he takes her to the hospital, Art goes to his homeless friend Harvey (Jim Byrnes) for help; Harvey has apparently discovered a time machine in the form of a discarded sofa chair. Art attempts to save Cody's life by using the time machine to rewrite her past. But as he continues to visit the past, Art gradually discovers the end result of Cody's problems may be connected to his own actions.

The film is described as a romantic comedy, but it seems more like a romantic drama with comical moments throughout, especially during Art's first trips into Cody's past. One can say it's either a rip-off of *The Butterfly Effect*, or at least very similar, but I personally have no right to say whether that is the case or not since I have only seen this movie and not the other one. What I can say is this: there is a sense of sincerity in the way this film presents itself, from the setting of Vancouver's darker side to the strong and natural acting of Baruchel and Lind. The underlying themes of love both held and lost, and love that can be rejuvenated in a different life and time stream, are presented so naturally that they come across as original. Both the time machine and Art and Harvey's reactions to its existence present a unique ambivalence throughout the film. Whether or not Art is truly seeing Cody's past, or if he and Harvey have dabbled in drugs and been on the streets for so long that their minds completely distort as a result, in the end it is up to the audience to decide for themselves.

Fetching Cody Synopsis

Fetching Cody is a surprisingly sincere romance with

a little comedy and even time travel involved. Set in the darker side of Vancouver Downtown Eastside, main character Art Frankel (played by Jay Baruchel) discovers that his girlfriend Cody Wesson (Sarah Lind) may be on the brink of death thanks to kidney failure and, overall, a long history of substance abuse. In desperation he turns to the strangest but most prevalent part of the movie: a sofa armchair that Art's homeless friend Harvey describes as a time machine. Sure enough the armchair seems to transport Art to different times of Cody's life. Art takes this as opportunity to rewrite Cody's past in the hope of saving her life. But as the film progresses, Art discovers that it may be his doing that caused Cody more harm in the first place.

This film to me was more surprising than anything, but in a good way. The dialogue seemed awkward but seemed to add rather than detract the naturalness of the acting from the cast, especially Baruchel and Lind who really hold the movie up together; as they should, since they're the leads! It's also interesting to note the ambivalence that focuses around the time machine itself; it's found in the dumpster by someone homeless, yet Art is able to see Cody's past regardless of how implausible the machine's existence is (I did wish that there was an explanation for its existence, but then as the movie went on it no longer seemed to matter). In the end, it's really up to the audience to decide about

that and the overall themes presented in the movie (oh yes, there are themes, well-executed ones!).

The film takes place in Vancouver's notorious Downtown Eastside and follows the story of Art Frankel (played by Jay Baruchel) as he desperately tries to save his girlfriend Cody Wesson (Sarah Lind) by attempting to rewrite her past. The film also features local drag queen Robert Kaiser as Sabrina.

What films would you like to see reviewed? Send suggestions for review themes or particular titles to Amanda at mindseye@nysa.bc.ca.

