

A Hidden Truffle – A Quick Review of *Pig*

By Aurelio De Leon, Jr.

On a whim, I decided to watch a film simply titled *Pig* and I didn't know what to expect from this latest outing from Nicolas Cage. Always one for his risk-taking in roles, you never really know what may come of a Cage performance. In a way, the trailer for this film does it a great disservice, but on the other hand it perfectly sets your expectations low only to completely blindside you by such a strong performance from Cage and his supporting cast. What could have been boiled down to a frail attempt at a revenge tale, dug its claws in and pulled itself out of that with every bit of strength to deliver a tragic character piece about loss, pain, and acceptance. Cage is perfectly cast as this film tows a fine line of absurd realism in the city of Portland; from the underground restaurant fight clubs to a mafia-like chef world, somehow this film manages to stay grounded with its portrayal of these brutally real and broken characters. Alongside Cage is Alex Wolff, who gives a good performance as Amir, acting as a sort of guide to Rob (Cage) as he attempts to navigate a culinary world he left behind long ago in search of his stolen truffle pig. I know that's already a mouthful of a premise right there but trust me, its fully aware of its absurdity and yet expertly follows through with powerful dialogue and visual storytelling to drive its point home. Both written and directed by Michael Sarnoski, this film could definitely be a sleeper hit that may be skipped by many due to its seemingly campy revenge fueled narrative, but I assure you it's not about revenge at all. There is beautiful camerawork throughout *Pig* along with subtle but effective sound and music choices that stir the senses. The performances are pretty strong across the board but Nicolas Cage in particular gives one of his best performances in years, differing greatly from the pure insanity of his role in the film *Mandy*. I almost don't wanna say anything more about this strange film other than to go see it. It truly was an unexpected delight and I wouldn't want to ruin that experience for anyone, so if you're interested go out and watch *Pig*.