

Squarespace Website Builder

Make and manage your own professional website with Squarespace's all-in-one platform.

Squarespace

OPEN

Review: Gemini Man

2019-10-11 16:00:00 by Chris Compendio

Does whatever a gemini can

0

It may be time to put the phrase "visionary mind" in moratorium from film trailers. The latest Will Smith vehicle is *Gemini Man*, and its marketing suggest that it's one of those films that just could not be made without recent advancements in moviemaking technology. It's something you hear from the likes of Kubrick, Cameron, or Cuarón in the past, and brought to you by Ang Lee, who somehow made both *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon* and *Hulk*.

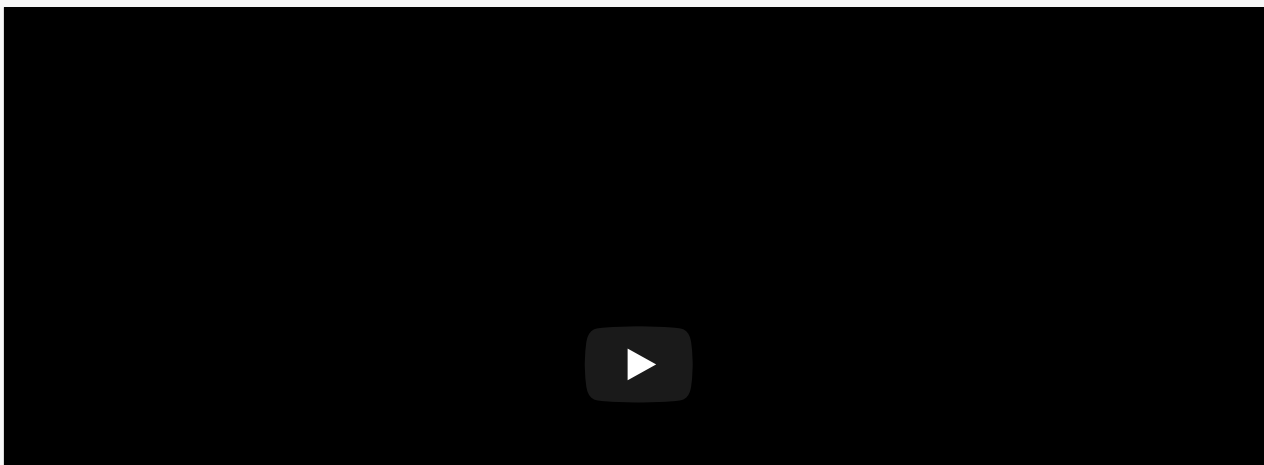
With two Oscars in his belt, perhaps Lee really does have the clout necessary to be labeled a visionary director. But in *Gemini Man*, I'm puzzled by what the "vision" really is. Was it to make the most comedically absurd action premise as boring and underwhelming as possible?

Create A Weebly Online Store

Weebly

Create and Launch a Beautiful eCommerce Website Quickly with Weebly.

LEARN MORE



Gemini Man

Director: Ang Lee

Release Date: October 11, 2019

Rated: PG-13

In *Gemini Man*, Will Smith essentially reprises his role as Deadshot from *Suicide Squad*, if that version of Deadshot was a bit more world-weary and tired of shooting people from ridiculous distances. His character of Henry Brogan has finally decided that he's had enough of the assassination business, and elects to retire.

Since that's the setup of the movie, you can assume that this doesn't go very well. Brogan learns that there was more to his last hit than he realized, and once he begins asking too many questions, his former agency decides to take up arms and permanently silence him. Of course, you don't get rid of Will Smith that easily.

So who better to kill Will Smith than (gasp) younger Will Smith! The closest to get to Brogan is a younger clone of himself, with the two exchanging blows at the end of the film's first act. "Junior," as the clone is called, is also seen to have a strange father-son dynamic with Clay Varris (Clive Owen), the director of the cloning program leading the charge to strike Brogan out.



It all sounds like a premise from the 1990s, something that would have competed with John Woo's *Face/Off*. The comparison is apt, considering that it took literal decades for this project to finally get off the ground, with a number of different stars rotating as the assassin facing off against his younger self.

With so much history behind this production, it was surprising just how by-the-numbers everything felt. Besides Brogan, there's fellow assassin Danny (Mary Elizabeth Winstead) as the female lead with very little to do other than to open an ear as Brogan airs his dirty laundry, and Baron as the practical wingman throwing the good guys some assists every once in a while.

Gemini Man cycles through so many tropes and cliched lines, to the point where it isn't even unintentionally funny the way those 90s action flicks were. In one instance about halfway through the film, Winstead gravely delivers the bombshell revelation line: "He's your clone," to shock and surprise from the characters—even though it's quite clear to the audience what is already happening. Even without watching the promotional material, anyone watching the film will feel two steps ahead of the characters and story.



But we're not here for the drama, right? We came into the theater to watch young Will Smith smack old Will Smith in the face with a motorcycle wheelie. Yes, there is a good amount of action in this film, and Lee shoots sequences quite smoothly. Seeing the highly-skilled, precise, and physics-defying feats of the Brogan should be a thrill and bring the film to a sort-of heightened reality, but there's simply too little of it.

If you're going to have a bit where young Will Smith shoots a grenade that bounces off a mirror towards old Will Smith, *commit to that style of action*. Everything else in the film seems so vanilla in comparison that I came out of the film questioning what the draw of the movie was meant to be. The stylistic action was too sporadic throughout for me to think that this was it. In a few months time, this film will only be remembered through YouTube 4K HDR clips of select action sequences.

Was it merely to showcase how far we've come with de-aging CGI, even though every damn Marvel movie beat this one to the punch? Or was it for the novelty of seeing the same star on the same screen twice, something Hollywood probably already mastered in the Lindsay Lohan remake of *The Parent Trap*?



Thematically, there just isn't anything to chew on with *Gemini Man*. The setup of a disillusioned hitman, while possibly overdone at this point, could lead to something interesting, but this film bungles it with a lack of subtlety. At one point, Brogan laments that he is unable to look at the mirror anymore after everything he's done, which couldn't be more obvious telegraphing for the fact that he's going to face off against literally himself.

Every potential theme is only brushed upon: preventing PTSD in soldiers by creating soldiers without consciences, what it really means to be human, how the same person can come out differently under different conditions, and so on. For someone advertised as pushing boundaries in filmmaking and storytelling, all Ang Lee seemed to have accomplished is making a 120 FPS remake of *Star Trek: Nemesis*.

It's hard for me to even say that *Gemini Man* feels like it comes from the wrong decade, because it feels behind in every regard. It's a story that's already been told in different, more effective ways, and one could even look to a movie like *Looper* to see that it doesn't need that fancy CGI. At the same time, it's hard to convince audiences that the visuals we see on the screen are groundbreaking.

Perhaps there's something we've missed from Ang Lee's vision by not watching *Gemini Man* in the proper technical conditions he intended while making the film. Unfortunately, no number of frames-per-second can save it from being as trite as it is.



You are logged out. [Login](#) | [Sign up](#)

From the Web

Powered by ZergNet



Gaming's Most Brutal Continue Screens



Video Games That Were Banned in America



Babydoll From 'Sucker Punch' is an Absolute Bombshell Now



Memes That Destroyed Lives



Next-Gen Launch Games We Really Want But Probably Aren't Getting



Calypso From 'Pirates of the Caribbean' is Actually a Bombshell



How Digital Releases Are Changing the Gaming Landscape



Pattinson's Struggles With 'The Batman' Keep Getting Worse



5.5 MEDIocre

An exercise in apathy, neither solid nor liquid. Not exactly bad, but not very good either. Just a bit 'meh,' really.

How we score: [The Flixist reviews guide](#)



structoid. They are a massive MCU fan who also
[. more + disclosures](#)

- [Review: Gemini Man - Chris Compendio](#)
- [Will Smith throws a motorcycle at Will Smith in first Gemini Man trailer - Kyle Yadlosky](#)
- [More related stories](#)

Filed under... [#Action](#) [#Reviews](#) [#Sci-fi](#) [#Top Stories](#) [#Will Smith](#)

READER COMMENTS LOADING BELOW...

Sponsored

Are you on Medicare? If you live in California, Read This!

Quick Medigap

2020 Toyotas Available Near Reseda

Kelley Blue Book

How To Locate Anyone In 10 Seconds (It's so simple)

TruthFinder

These Mac Tips Will Really Open Your Eyes

MacKeeper

Almost Nobody Aces This Tools Quiz!

QuizGriz




make it personal.



1 Login ▾

Sort by Oldest ▾

 Join the discussion...

LOG IN WITH

OR SIGN UP WITH DISQUS 



Name

Like this article?

Subscribe to Flixist to receive daily updates of the latest articles delivered straight to your inbox.

[Hide this message](#)



Peter Glagowski · 4 months ago

120 FPS means 120 times the awesome!

^ | ▾ · Reply · Share ›

Subscribe  [Disqus' Privacy Policy](#)[Privacy Policy](#)[Privacy Policy](#)

LET'S KEEP THE COMMUNITY GREAT

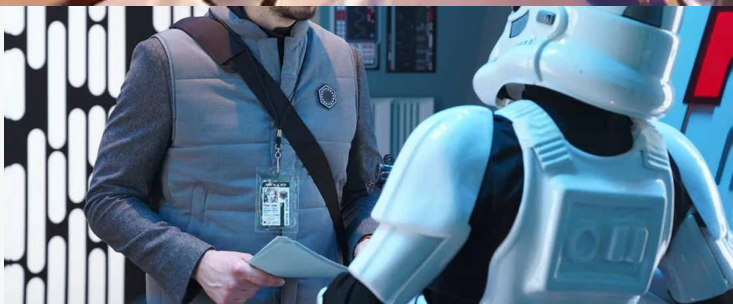
You're not expected to always agree, but do please keep cool and never make it personal. Report harassment, spam, and hate speech to [our community team](#). Also, on the right side of a comment you can flag nasty comments **anonymously** (we ban users dishing **bad karma**). For everything else, [contact us!](#)

- **There's currently a bidding war for an Under the Skin TV series**
1 comment · 1 day ago
- **The Decade Decathlon: 2018**
1 comment · 1 week ago
- **Review: Bad Boys for Life**
1 comment · 1 week ago
- **Hey look, Confederate was cancelled by HBO! See, nobody cares.**
1 comment · 1 week ago
- **Disney is hoping to get Taika Waititi to direct a Star Wars film**
1 comment · 1 week ago
- **Colin Trevorrow's original script for Star Wars: Episode IX leaks on Reddit**
1 comment · 1 week ago
- **Can we stop with all the 'Skywalker Saga' games in Star Wars media?**



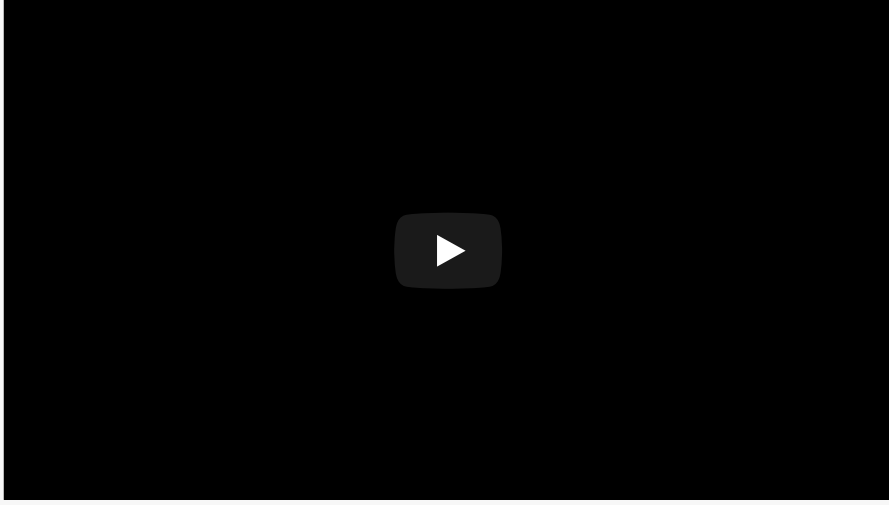
• **Adam Driver returns as Kylo on Saturday Night Live**

• 0



It was the first live *Saturday Night Live* of 2020 last night and it did not disappoint. Adam Driver returned as host and did a whole slew of hilarious skits, one which was a direct sequel to his first sketch back in 2016. In a spoof of *Undercover Boss* where bosses of real companies go undercover in their own companies, Driver

reprised his role as Kylo Ren to go incognito at Star Killer Base as Randy an Intern with the First Order.



It gives us a recap of Kylo's life which coincides with the events of the last three *Star Wars* films, but in a hilarious way. I enjoyed the humorous take on the First Order as an actual "company." This was an enjoyable skit and Driver did a fantastic job in it as well as hosting last night. Sadly, this is probably the last time you will ever see him don the mantle of Kylo Ren ever again. Unless, of course, there's a

