

THE PHANTOM TOLLBOOTH

Your Gateway to Music and More from a Christian Perspective
Slow down as you approach the gate, and have your change ready....



Fetching Cody

Stars: Jay Baruchel, Sarah Lind, Jim Byrnes, Liam McGuigan and Robert Kaiser

Director/Scriptwriter: David Ray

Music: Philip Western

Cheap and Dirty Productions

Running Time: 87 minutes

Rating: not rated

Reviewed at Kansas International Film Festival 2006

"Cody" is a young girl who gets herself into trouble. The "Fetching Cody" in the title refers to trying to get Cody out of trouble using a time machine that is actually an old recliner, reminiscent of the one from the "Frazier" television series. In fact, the film was shot in Vancouver, which is a hop, skip and jump from Frazier's Seattle. Such is the theme of this movie that combines time travel with troubled teens, friendship, love, a dabbling of macabre humor and those irritating school years.

Sarah Lind (from Canadian television) plays Cody, who is living on the streets and counts Art (Jay Baruchel from *Million Dollar Baby*) as her best friend and beau. They are inseparable and make a meager living. Friends from the streets are Harvey (Jim Byrnes from television's "Highlander"), who can't throw anything away, and Sabrina (Robert Kaiser). Cody becomes seriously ill and ends up in a hospital, while Art tries frantically to help her. Harvey finds a time machine and Art uses it to discover facts of Cody's past life. All has not been pleasant. Flashbacks tell us what happened and Art travels back again and again to try to fix things, which seems to be a key phrase in today's society.

Having an old recliner festooned with Christmas tree lights as a time machine is clever. Jay Baruchel's body language is eloquent as he and the chair negotiate what to do. Their first time together propels Jay and the chair in the middle of a train track with the train coming. In fact, Baruchel, looking remarkably like Jon Heder (*Napolean Dynamite*), inhabits the role of Art, who is forced to help someone and then comes to the realization that love is involved. Sarah Lind's Cody is a child in a woman's body, who can't seem to find her place in life. Harvey (Jim Brynes) tries to direct Art's time travel ventures and is everyone's friend, as is Sabrina, a street walker.

When we discover something of Cody's past, the incident then becomes a humorous one. Director David Ray has a creative camera moment in a shot from the floor, as Art creeps on hands and knees to exchange presents under Cody's Christmas tree. The bottom third of the screen is Art slithering along the floor, while the middle third is the floor of the next level and the top of the screen are the people in the next room, oblivious as to what is going on. It's a tri-focal shot. Philip Weston's music is well thought out and adds to the story, plus photography brings out Vancouver, good and bad parts.

What happens when you try to tamper with time? Something like this was covered in *The Butterfly Effect*, but they didn't have a recliner. As with all time movies, the audience must decide what could happen when a time flow is disturbed and whether they go along with the writer's vision. *Fetching Cody* is a pleasant journey in a soft chair with no regrets.

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