

“A cool and sexy comedy.”

QX Magazine

Jenn Harris



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Reviews MATT MUELLER



# TRANCE

4/5

James McAvoy, Vincent Cassel, Rosario Dawson

Hot from his Olympics opening ceremony, in which he somehow gelled the Industrial Revolution, NHS nursing, Voldemort and Kenneth Branagh into a tantalising whole, Danny Boyle gets back to film-making with this lean, mean hypno-thriller. McAvoy stars as an art auctioneer who is involved in stealing a \$25 million Goya painting but is unable to tell his heist-mates (led by Cassel) its whereabouts following a blow to the head. To unlock his memory the gang recruits Dawson's hot hypnotherapist, setting in motion the only narrative in film history in which a shaved vagina is a crucial plot device. With its contortionist twists, shifting alliances and woozy, brain-teasing visuals, Trance plays like the grown-up cousin to Shallow Grave, Boyle's career-making debut. McAvoy is a busy boy: he has London cop thriller Welcome to the Punch out this month, too. It's also slick, stylish and shallow but missing Boyle's brilliance, so if you only pick one McAvoy outing, choose Trance. Trance is released on March 27, Welcome to the Punch on March 15



3/5

# GAYBY

Jenn Harris, Matthew Wilkas, Mike Doyle

Like the feature-film offspring of HBO's Girls and Ryan Murphy's The New Normal, there's plenty to like about writer-director Jonathan Lisecki's indie gay-com, which follows hopelessly single 'hot yoga' instructor Jenn's efforts to have a baby with her gay best friend Matt (stuck in his own relationship-free rut) the old-fashioned way. Gayby is frothy and lightweight, to be sure, and avoids getting political, but it's also warm, likeable and rife with irresistible one-liners.

Released on March 11



3½/5

**COMPLIANCE**

Ann Dowd, Dreama Walker, Pat Healy

Based on a real incident, this harrowing drama focuses on a frazzled fast-food manager (Dowd) who is manipulated into doing terrible things when a man calls up the restaurant claiming to be a cop and accuses one of her young employees (Walker) of theft. Piling titillation upon sexual humiliation, *Compliance* eventually turns ridiculous, but until it reaches that point it's intense, provocative viewing, with Dowd riveting as the plausibly complicit Sandra.

Released on March 22



4/5

**SIDE EFFECTS**

Rooney Mara, Channing Tatum, Jude Law

We love films that yank the rug out from under you, and Steven Soderbergh's stylish Hollywood farewell (the *Magic Mike* director insists he's retiring) does exactly that. What begins as a cautionary tale about America's addiction to mood-altering pharmacology turns midway into a battle-of-the-wits thriller between a suicidal sleepwalker (Mara) and her deluded psychiatrist (Law). The suspense fizzles rather than sizzles towards the end but Mara and Law are on seductive form.

Released on March 8



3/5

**JACK THE GIANT SLAYER**

Nicholas Hoult, Ewan McGregor, Stanley Tucci

Riffing on the old English folk tale, this ramped-up Hollywood makeover casts rising star Hoult as the naive lad who unleashes a race of cloud-dwelling giants with that damned beanstalk. There are duelling nobles, a princess in peril, pigs in a blanket and Hoult acting more London hipster than medieval farm boy. But it's the giants that rule: they're grotesque and genuinely frightening, although, disappointingly, they never once utter the phrase, 'Fee-fi-fo-fum, I smell the blood of an Englishman!'

Released on March 22

"A fresh and hilarious take on modern gay life."

Midlands Zone

Matthew Wilkas



A film by Jonathan Lisecki

gayby

...has never been this reproductive

