

Film Review: Diablo Cody cheapens 'Body' of work post-'Juno'

by Krystyna Wagny

The Heights
U-Wire Content

If recent trends in the motion picture world prove anything, it is that vampires sell. From "Twilight" to "True Blood" to the "Vampire Diaries," they have popped up all over. And as always, sex sells.

Thus, it makes sense that a certain crowd will be attracted to "Jennifer's Body" - and/or Megan Fox's body. This particular movie offers little on either front, however.

Jennifer is not in fact a vampire, though she is certainly possessed by the devil. Sex, while certainly an underlying theme, takes up little of the screen time. What, then, is the appeal of "Jennifer's Body"? Truthfully, it's difficult to say.

The movie stars Megan Fox as Jennifer, the sexy "It" girl of Devil's Kettle High. From the beginning, she constantly manipulates those around her.

This includes her best friend since childhood, aptly nicknamed "Needy" (Amanda Seyfried - Karen from "Mean Girls").

The trouble begins when Jen drags Needy to a rock show featuring a city band called Low Shoulder at a local "club." Jennifer is particularly interested in the lead singer, played by an eyeliner-bedecked Adam Brody.

When the bar catches on fire, the plot takes a tragic turn, which sends the town into mourning, and Jen into a rather altered state.

Through several flashbacks throughout the movie, we see how Needy and Jen's friendship developed in the sandbox and come to understand why Needy feels she cannot "tell" on Jen for her actions.

However, the first scene of the movie features Needy in a mental institution, so clearly when the truth did come out it wasn't given a warm reception.

The only person Needy does confide in is her boyfriend Chip (Johnny Simmons). Cute and innocent, he plays a rather unexpected role in the movie's only real sex scene.

The movie may have set out to scare, but



moments of real terror were few and far between.

The suspense was often broken by scenes of awkward comedy, frequently provided by a local teacher (J.K. Simmons).

The action snaps back and forth from horror to high school, but never lets the viewer get too uncomfortable.

A film such as this seems unlikely to come from Diablo Cody, who won an Oscar for

the screenplay of 2007 hit "Juno."

Was she joking? High? Enamored with the idea of making a crappy horror film? It's hard to say.

However, some parallels may be made. She clearly has a fascination with high school and its main patrons, high schoolers.

Most of the major cliques are represented. The jocks, the artsy emo kids, and the nerds all make an appearance, and all succumb to Jennifer's charms. Apparently there is equality in the world.

It seems the point of this motion picture

was to display just how manipulative and cruel high school girls can be.

In the introductory scene, Needy says, "Hell is a teenage girl." The story then seeks to prove that claim. From the start, Jen is aggressive and conniving.

She targets men and tosses them away without a second thought. Ironically, the term "man-eater" takes on new meaning when she begins snacking on her conquests in dark alleys.

While wholly unconvincing, and far from a cinematic achievement for any of the professionals involved, "Jennifer's Body" still entertains.

It lags at points and fails to explain anything until late in the chomp-fest, but it frequently makes fun of itself and allows for plenty of jokes to be made at its expense in the meantime.

For those who like the adrenaline rush of being scared out of their minds, and typically stay tuned at points when most of us shut our eyes and start frantically popping milk duds, this film will likely disappoint.

But for those of us who have plenty of time and like an occasional laugh at someone else's expense, "Jennifer's Body" will provide.

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