

film

Satisfaction guaranteed

Confetti (15)
Reviewed by
Laura Kendall

THIS comedy about the trials of tying the knot is, quite simply, an absolute gem.

Without question one of the best British films in a dishearteningly long time, *Confetti* brims with warmth, heart and humour.

It's also wonderfully original; the fact that it was entirely improvised is testament to its talented cast, most of whom are instantly recognisable from TV sitcoms and sketch shows.

A 'mockumentary' in the style of such cult classics as *This is Spinal Tap*, *Confetti* tells the stories of three betrothed couples vying to win a dream home in a 'Most Original Wedding' magazine contest.

Ruthless competitors Josef and Isabelle (*Green Wing's* Stephen Mangan and *Man Stroke Woman's* Meredith MacNeill) have their hearts set on a Wimbledon wedding in tribute to his fading career as a tennis pro.

Naturalists Michael and Joanna (*The Smoking Room's* Robert Webb and *Green Wing's* Olivia Colman) want to get hitched sans clothes but their plans fall foul of the magazine's awful editor, Vivien (Felicity Montagu, *I'm Alan Partridge*) and publisher, Antoni (comedian Jimmy Carr).

The third pair of hopefuls are Matt and Samantha (Martin Freeman of *The Office* fame and *Spaced's*

Jessica Stevenson), fans of Hollywood musicals who are desperate to win the house so they can escape her domineering mother.

Co-ordinating the chaos are gay wedding planners Heron and Hough, who provide some of the film's funniest moments.

Though on the surface the plot seems rather pedestrian, the exuberant performances really lift this movie; there's genuine tension as the various lovebirds draw ever nearer to their big day and, hopefully, the big prize.

Josef and Isabella are fabulously vile and, moreover, completely wrong for each other. He's a petty control freak, while she's a doormat with more than a passing interest in her Spanish tennis coach, Jesus.

Michael and Joanna are almost whimsically endearing and easily the funniest pairing, garnering huge laughs with their naked hi-jinx. Performers Webb and Colman are clearly very brave.

But it's Matt and Sam you'll really be rooting for as they attempt to plan their musical nuptials (which include singing their vows) while dealing with his jealous best mate and her mother and perma-tanned sister.

The cast is almost entirely excellent - only Jimmy Carr is miscast. While undoubtedly very funny, he's just not believable as a ruthless, womanising magazine publisher.

Director Debbie Isitt, who also devised the film, staged a live competition final and shot three separate endings with each of the couples



Josef É Worrall (Stephen Mangan) and Isabelle Fontaine (Meredith MacNeill)

winning. Interestingly, real judges presided at the shoot and the wedding they deemed 'Most Original' was not the

one that wins in the film. The term 'feel-good movie of the year' is banded about all too often but with *Confetti*, it might just be

warranted. You'll leave this film feeling uplifted, guaranteed.

■ 9/10

competition

■ To celebrate the release of *Mission: Impossible III*, we have teamed up with our friends at The Screen at Reigate cinema to give away some fab prizes!

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The closing date for entries is Thursday May 11, 2006. Usual *guide* competition rules apply.



■ The Screen at Reigate cinema will be screening *Mission: Impossible III* from Thursday May 4 and each ticket holder will receive an Atomic Paintball voucher while stocks last. For times, call the box office on 01737 223213.



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