



The heroes drive Porsches, the villains drive Camaros in *No Man's Land*

Film caters to car lovers

No Man's Land
Orion Pictures
Odeon

review by Dragos Ruiu

The movie, *No Man's Land*, is just what the doctor ordered. Dr. Porsche that is.

It isn't great, but the scenery and the cars are. Charlie Sheen plays Ted Varrick, a rich kid. His parents are loaded, and he owns a L.A. Porsche repair shop that does some funny business in the back. He steals Porsches for kicks, and that little bit of spending cash that lets you walk out of the store with a Perry

Ellis suit.

D.B. Sweeney plays Benji Taylor, a gung-ho cop who doesn't act like a cop. He's good with German cars and is sent undercover to try to pin the murder of a police officer detecting car thefts on Varrick. Sounds easy, right?

It turns out these two guys get along great. They become best friends, and Taylor falls in love with Varrick's sister. He likes stealing Porsches. The red 1987 911 Carrera that Varrick gives him as a present almost converts him. But he's a cop, or so he thought... and things get exciting.

The only problem is that you don't know who you want to win, the good guys or the bad guys — or which is which. Luckily, there are some really bad guys — you can tell, they drive Camaros.

When it comes down to it, it doesn't matter that this movie is only good not great. I would shell out six bucks to see it anyway. Just to vicariously live out some fantasies.

Live that fantasy of bagging that 911 turbo. Watch with glee as the silver, early eighties, 911 turbo with gold 3-piece BBs alloy rims and forty series tires sucks the headlights out of the hopped up IROC. (Much to the dejection of the person sitting next to you who went 'yeah' when it entered the picture.) Yeah, German alloy eats Detroit iron for breakfast.

This movie seems to be a tribute to the

greatest creation of Herr Docketor. There are few scenes which do not take place in, or have in the background, a Porsche. You get to see 911's in just about every form they take. No yuppie 944's or bloated, heavy 928's, just the car whose basic design has survived two decades.

Watch them do that characteristic rear-engine tail wiggle when they are exploring the limits of the co-efficient of kinetic friction. Yeah...oohhh, a black DP-935, enough Hp to move the world.

Despite the undoubted stars of this movie being the cars, Sheen and Sweeney do a pretty good, though not admirable, job. Sheen is perfecting his villain character that stole the show in Ferris Bueller's Day Off, and you begin to feel like the character is a re-run.

You do start to empathize with both their characters: the sinister, cool, and laid back car thief, and the eager, fun-loving, excited, young cop. You get to see the bond that builds between them, and their difficult choice at the end. But you can't make up your mind who you want to root for, and that makes the whole movie a lot less interesting than it could have been.

This is not a comic book, and the conclusion presents the audience with a difficult choice. I won't bother telling you...

But if you like the Porsche mystique, Joe Bob says check it out.

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