



Photos courtesy of rottentomatoes.com

Captain Colton Stevens (Jake Gyllenhaal) wakes up confused about why he's on a train to Chicago, instead of piloting in Afghanistan. He finds out he's taken the place of a passenger named Sean, who was accompanying Christina Warren (Michelle Monaghan).

Thriller meets expectation



BY KEN DUSOLD
Staff Reviewer

Guessing "Source Code" is a frantically-paced action-thriller with some science fiction and a little romance for good measure would be a safer bet than filling out a bracket for the 2011 NCAA tournament.

Audiences get exactly what they expect — nothing more and nothing less. It is a bonus that what they can expect is an uninhibited ride of non-stop excitement.

When the film opens with a

music score reminiscent of an Alfred Hitchcock movie, we find a confused U.S. Army Captain Colton Stevens (Jake Gyllenhaal) waking up on a commuter train bound for Chicago. The last thing he remembers prior to this moment is piloting a helicopter mission in Afghanistan. Not helping to calm his nerves is Christina Warren (Michelle Monaghan), who thinks he's a passenger named Sean. After eight minutes of questioning his predicament, a fireball engulfs Colton, Christina and the other passengers following the detonation of the powerful bomb stored on the train.

Waking up again, this time in a darkened capsule surrounded by monitor screens and wires, Colton is met with a startling reality. He is the subject of a top secret title program. Guiding him through the program is Captain Colleen Goodwin (Vera Farmiga), a uniformed specialist concerned for Colton's mental state during his mission. Colton, still dazed

from his experience, is informed of a terrorist attack on the same commuter train outside Chicago earlier in the day. Using the last eight minutes imprinted in the brain of one of the train's victims, the program allows for Colton to be transplanted onto the train in attempt to identify the killer.

Of course, the terrorist (Michael Arden) is planning a second, far more devastating attack, making Colton's mission that much more pertinent. The hope is that by identifying him through the source code, the authorities can find him before the worst happens.

Whether Colton catches the bad guy is not central to the plot. Like finding a roll of film in Hitchcock's "North by Northwest," finding the train bomber in "Source Code" is a MacGuffin — used only as a plot element to drive the characters further along in the story. What we care about are the people on the train and Colton's progressive realization of the

shocking truth behind his involvement with the Source Code.

Indeed, the film is at its best when on the train with Colton as he searches for the terrorist that the film succeeds in its mission. Most impressive about the movie's accomplishment is that the people on the train cannot be saved in the real world. We know this from the film's beginning, when Goodwin explains to Colton how the Source Code works. Despite this knowledge, the audience constantly is hooked by Colton's tireless efforts to save the commuters' lives in the alternate universe he continually revisits.

Moving quickly through sequences, like Colton, the audience has little time to relax until after the climax, when a touch of sentimentalism slows the plot to its finish. The romantic and human interest-themed ending allows a much needed release for both Colton and the viewer, following

the whirlwind journey to which director Duncan Jones and writer Ben Ripley has just subjected us.

Jones and Ripley attempt to stir morally and ethically-minded questions about the existence of the Source Code. However, this does not really work as well as the film's speed and suspense, so it is best not to think long about this aspect of the story.

For "Source Code," entertainment is all the audience wants. With two seemingly connected, but separate goals for Colton to meet — capturing the bomber and saving the explosion's innocent victims — we are assured that entertainment is what we will get. And although we do not truly care about one of these goals and know the other to be impossible, there remains plenty of action to carry us through until the credits. As told to Colton in answer to his questions about the program, "the Source Code is a gift. Don't squander it by thinking."

'Training season for new year's resolutions'

BY BURGUNDY RAMSEY
Staff Reporter

In the simplest terms, Lent is the season before Easter. But for many, Lent means a lot more — a time of sacrifice to get back to faith. While many people celebrate Lent their entire lives, to some it remains a complete mystery.

Lent begins Ash Wednesday and continues through Holy Week, the week before Easter. This period lasts 40 days.

Not all sacrifices made for Lent are in the form of giving something up. Some people try to read the Bible every day, pray or devote their time to something else.

Junior Joseph Stoverink is setting aside time to pray each day. He also decided to give up Facebook.

"It's a great time for reflection," Stoverink said. "To look back on who I've been and who I can be."

Freshman Amy Sallwasser has celebrated Lent her entire life. She was raised Catholic, and it has become an important part of her life.

"I think it's really cool," Sallwasser said. "When I was a kid I hated it, but now it's just something that I do."

This year for Lent, Sallwasser gave up sweets.

"It's been rough," she said. "You go to the dining hall and see really good desserts, but you can't have them."

Sallwasser said sometimes she will eat them Sundays, which technically are exempt from Lent. The six Sundays between Ash Wednesday and Holy Week are days followers

don't have to sacrifice. She said she still tries to avoid them on those days.

Sophomore Joe Krispin gave up fast food and swearing for Lent.

"Swearing sometimes happens," he said. "So when that happens, I do push-ups."

All three said this time of year makes them take a step back and re-examine their faith, and it also tests their will power. Each person who gives up something for Lent takes away something that is meaningful for them. Rarely is the sacrifice easy, but all agreed it was worth it.

"It kind of sounds like training season for new year's resolutions," Stoverink said.

But not everyone can meet these resolutions. Senior Luke Aten was going to give up fast



food for Lent but couldn't stick with his goal.

"I guess it's just not really important to me anymore," Aten said.

He said that while growing up, his faith always was very important. He and his family always would give things up for Lent, but being at school instead of at home has made him take a step back from it.

Senior Amanda Merz was raised Catholic and went to Catholic school for most of her education before Truman. She would celebrate Lent every year, but since she's been at college, religion hasn't been as impor-

tant to her anymore. She said her views about Lent have changed a lot since she was younger.

"I feel like a lot of people give up something for Lent and not really reflect on why they're giving up something," Merz said.

Senior Emily Hall agreed with this.

"If you want to do something good or change something about yourself, you shouldn't do it just because your religion says so," Hall said. "You should do it to make yourself a better person."

Both Merz and Hall said people give something up

for Lent because their religion dictates so and not because they actually see it as a sacrifice. Merz said she becomes really annoyed with people who just give something up for 40 days and then go right back to it after Lent ends.

"Granted, now that I'm at college where a lot of kids aren't living under the roof of parents who expect them to follow whatever religion their family does, I do feel like more of the people I know that participate in Lent are more sincere about it than when I was growing up where it was kind of mandatory," Merz said.

WWW.TRUMANRENTALS.COM

Providing affordable student housing for more than 24 years.

Boardwalk • Waterworks • Park Place • States Avenue • St. James Place • New York Avenue

Four Horizons Realty
703 N. Marion St.
Kirksville, MO 63501
660-665-RENT
www.4horizonsrealty.com

Winter Break Is Over!
School Is Back In Session!

buck bros.
sunny slope auto
You Name It! We Do It!

Let the guys at Buck Bros. Sunny Slope Auto make sure you're in class on time! Call now to set up an appointment!
660-665-8464

Hours:
Monday - Friday: 8-5:30
Saturday: 8-12

Lock outs
Brakes

Towing
Exhaust

Tune ups
A/C