

“KIN”

By Helen Lutz

Multitasking is when one person handles more than one task at the same time; examples include chewing gum while walking, sending e-mails during a meeting, and talking on the phone while watching television. Research shows there are both advantages and disadvantages to multitasking. As technology allows people to do more tasks at the same time, the myth that we can multitask has never been stronger. Most professionals admit that we don't do it well. It would be so nice if life were simple; but most would agree that life gets pretty complicated and confusing much of the time. So does the new dysfunctional family, gangster, murder, sci-fi, thriller movie “KIN” which is now playing in theaters.



There's trouble at school and Eli Solinski (Myles Tritt) sits at the principal's office after fighting with a classmate. Unfortunately Eli's father is too busy to come to school and Eli is suspended. Hal (Dennis Quaid) is doing his best to raise his young adopted son after the death of his wife, but life isn't easy. Hal is a hard worker trying to instill this feature in his rebellious young son who has a little too much freedom and time on his hands. Hal's biologic son Jimmy (Jack Reynor) returns to the homestead after spending six years in prison; Hal didn't do so well the first time around and now Jimmy needs quick cash. After telling Jimmy that he can't help him come up the \$60K he needs, Hal tells Jimmy to leave.

Eli finds that he's pretty good at scavenging recyclable materials, especially in old buildings, to come up with spending money. When Hal discovers this, he explains that what Eli is doing is still stealing and wrong. It's a pretty hard sell and Eli returns to one of the buildings only to find himself in the middle of a very strange gunfight. When all is said and done the shooters are all dead and very unusual beings. Eli spies a rectangular shaped box which when picked up appears to be a really cool gun of sorts. He takes the gun and speeds off toward home.

Hal and Eli take a quick trip to Hal's construction site and find the lock on the fence broken. You guessed it – inside the construction trailer are Jimmy and gangsters, to include a very fierce looking Taylor Balik (James Franco complete with dreadlocks and covered with tattoos) along with his brother and other gang members breaking into the safe to settle Jimmy's debt. Things go awry and Hal and Taylor's brother end up dead in the melee.

The story tells us about Jimmy and Eli as they try to stay a step ahead of revenge seeking Taylor and his thugs. One of their adventures includes Eli's first visit to a strip club where they end up finding a new compatriot, Milly (Zoë Kravitz). It's during a mishap with the proprietor of the club that Eli appears with his rectangular gun and proceeds to pull the trigger, half the club is vaporized.

Multitasking isn't always a good thing, especially in movies. If this review seems to ramble a bit, it's because “KIN” takes us in so many directions at once that it's hard to keep up. Oh – and did I mention that the owners of the really cool gun have also arrived on the planet and joined Taylor's chase in search for their gun and Eli? “KIN” takes confusion to a new level coupled with many set-up scenes which are slow and much too long (built in bathroom breaks). On a scale of one to four Hart Beats I give “KIN” ONE 1/2 HARTS. There might be a story buried deeply somewhere, but the Baker brothers (writers/directors) can't seem to get a handle on it.