

FILM REVIEW

Don't Shoot The Pharmacist!

By Anthony Vivirito

Can one night in a Brooklyn pharmacy show us a knock down flat out crazy romp through a world of comedic mishaps and crazy happenings? Of course it can! Hookers, potheads, junkies, adulterers, and one very manic OCD patient are ready to make this store unbearable for those who work it. Comedic newcomer Dave Broitman's film, *Don't Shoot The Pharmacist!*, helps to reintroduce the world to a commonly known fact of how crazy customers can be, and to truly feel sorry for the guys who have to deal with the lot of them!



A man with a beard and mustache, wearing a white lab coat over a dark blue shirt, is the central focus. He is looking directly at the camera with a neutral expression. The background is a pharmacy setting with shelves containing various items, including what appears to be a framed picture of a tropical scene and some papers. The entire image is framed by a black film strip border with white sprocket holes.

Don't Shoot **The** Pharmacist!

From Right to Left:
The blurred Edwin Matos Jr. as Ty Jackman,
with Ben Bailey as Zack Wright, RPh.

FILM REVIEW

Don't Shoot The Pharmacist!

After a fellow coworker calls out for another night of work, it's up to pharmacist Zack Wright (played by Ben Bailey, the hilarious host of the game show *Cash Cab*) to pick up the slack and work the overnight shift once again at the Goodyear Pharmacy in Brooklyn. Along with his trusty pharmacy technician, Ty Jackman (played by Edwin Matos Jr.), they both help to entertain each other and deal with annoying people through the night. At the same time of helping the weirdest and most annoying customers



in the borough, his overactive imagination helps to keep him (partially) awake. While daydreaming about fulfilling his goal of becoming a Vegas Roulette dealer or any which way he can please his female customers, he's struggling to figure out why he's stuck dealing with this job and why he hasn't already left. These two characters are not alone, as they are joined by an OCD patient in denial named Phil (played by Jayson Simba), whose only reason for waiting all night within the pharmacy is to wait on his Zoloft refills. He's joined by Kevin the pothead (who's played by the famous comedian, Godfrey) who shows us all

how to appreciate all things in this world, big or small, with a little help from some marijuana. And rounding off this fruitful list of characters is Zack's roommate Alex, who is played by Comedian Steve Byrne, who ironically plays a (bad) comedian in the movie.

The movie seems to pay much homage to clerks and the Kevin Smith defined Genre of comedy, taking it's cues when it can, but at the same time mixing in a unique style all the director's own. Broitman exposes the viewer to a plethora of customer types that we have all seen (or experienced) at least once through the glory of retail service or life itself.

They range from a Spanish man (Shaun Taylor-Corbett) with severe incontinence and no English vocabulary, to a tall man (Bruce Ross) with a mysterious odor which he chooses to deny, a local prostitute (Gretchen Dematera) complaining on the size of the pills she must swallow (though she has no problem swallowing other things of a questionable nature), to my personal favorite, a hard of hearing, senile, bald, slightly stupid old man (Myles MacVane), who has a wife and a girlfriend, and proceeds to try on condoms within the pharmacy itself without any warning to others! My hat is off to Dave Broitman for this character's creation (which makes me wonder if he was based off a person he came across in his daily life...). The comedy is further enhanced in the lucid daydreams that come across Zack's brain as he



ABOVE: Zack (played by Ben Bailey) & Ty (played by Edwin Matos) open wide!

RIGHT: Zac (Ben Bailey) punches Alex (Steve Byrne).



ABOVE: Emily Sproch playing the role of Janet from the film *Don't Shoot the Pharmacist!*

struggles to make it through the shift. Many of them involve pleasing many of the female customers (Such as Janet, played by Emily Sproch) who frequent the shop, as well as making himself believe he is a sexual dynamo. One of the films truly entertaining daydreams is when he becomes a karate master to help a local junkie "kick" his drug habit... literally.

While offering an insight of horrifying retail can be, no matter what the job may be, Dave Broitman brings comedy to a new level and beyond, penning an interesting tale, and using his characters to their full potential on screen. All in all, this movie deserves a generous amount of praise for both the creator and his cast. So check it out while you can and check out www.dontshootthepharmacist.com for show times and places where you can check it out. And please, whatever you do, don't shoot the pharmacist (or Dave Broitman)! 🚫



ABOVE: Kevin (as portrayed by "Godfrey" on the floor of the pharmacist).



Don't Shoot ^{The} Pharmacist!

Don't Shoot The Pharmacist! is recognized as one of the top 4 films in Staten Island Film Festival's history. It's going to be screened again on Friday, June 5 at CSI at the Williamson Theater in Staten Island for those who missed it last time.

Tix at:

<http://www.ticketweb.com/t3/sale/SaleEventDetail?dispatch=loadSelectionData&eventId=1230194>

Directed by David Broitman

Writing by David Broitman

CAST

Ben Bailey.....Zack Wright
Edwin Matos.....Ty Jackman
Jayson Simba.....Phil Freeman
Godfrey.....Kevin
Myles MacVane.....Johnson
Shaun Taylor-Corbett....Pico the Shitter

Original Music by Quentin Chiappetta

Cinematography by Erika Silverstein

Film Editing by David Broitman, Rick

Engelsher, Guy Shahar

& Jayson Simba

