

on the weekends

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pspumpkinpatch.com | On the corner of Jones Ave and Bell Rd

Sept. 27th - Oct. 27th Fridays 3pm to Sunset

7th Annual

FAMILY FUN

FREE PARKING!

KIDS ACTIVITIES!

Sat & Sun 10am to Sunset





Mysteries of the universe and the human condition in two new films

James Gray's *Ad Astra* is a spectacular sci-fi adven-ture wrapped around a sketchy but serious-minded mixture of psychological drama and cosmic allegory. That mixture is sometimes rather labored, but the

overall result is fascinating and vivid in ways that are never merely generic.

The basic storyline has a veteran astronaut, Major Roy McBride (Brad Pitt), sent on a top secret mission to the far side of Neptune. He's sent to find what remains of something called the Lima Project and to determine any connection it has to the massive cosmic rays currently wreaking havoc on the solar system.

The mission is doubly fraught for McBride since the head of the "lost" Lima Project was, and perhaps still is, a legendary astronaut (Tommy Lee Jones) who is also McBride's chronically distant father. Plus, the entangled duplicities and manipulations of the ruling space agency incite multiple treacheries for what is an increasingly desperate mission.

The aging astronauts played by Jones and Donald Sutherland have a

haunted, near ghostly look to them, in keeping with the film's sidelong mysticism. Pitt's character learns a thing or two from those ghostly savants, and also from the small crowd of semi-robotic colleagues with whom he is involved.

The father-son encounter in the allegorical climax seems contrived, but the gravity of Jones and Pitt, as

well as the authority of the physical action, give it some heft all the same. And Pitt is excellent throughout as a dedicatedly robotic hero and human being who seems to find himself by losing his way.

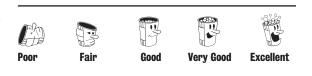
In Luce, "mixed signals" lead to increasingly perilous

misunderstandings, even among well-meaning people who believe they're acting with the best of intentions.

The key players, in this case, a school teacher/activist (Octavia Spencer); the orphaned teenage African refugee called Luce (Kelvin Harrison Jr.), who is the school's star pupil; and the childless suburban couple (Naomi Watts and Tim Roth) who have adopted him. The crisis of misunderstandings comes when the teacher finds what she takes to be evidence of violent and destructive tendencies in the young man.

Adapted by director Julius Onah and writer J. C. Lee from a play by the latter, Luce is a sharply written roundelay in which the characters take action on personal impressions that are mistaken or incomplete. The film lets us see the nuances of such things, moral and otherwise, with all four of the chief characters, each of whom also makes early impressions on us viewers that we're obliged to reconsider later on.

Harrison Jr. is especially fine as the mercurial Luce. Andrea Bang, Norbert Leo Butz, Marsha Stephanie Blake, and actor/rapper Astro all make apt contributions in secondary roles.



10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

|2. 2019

Silver Dollar Fairgrounds Commercial Building 2357 Fair Street - Chico, CA

THOUSANDS OF EXOTIC PETS HUGE REPTILE BREEDERS SALE





by Juan-Carlos

Ad Astra Starring Brad Pitt and Tommy Lee Jones. Directed by James Gray. Cinemark 14 and Feather River Cinema. Rated PG-13.



Luce Opens Sept. 27. Pageant Theatre. Rated R.