



Comments

Subscribe
Starting at 99 cents

Members
Sign In

MOVIE REVIEW

A search for love — and J.D. Salinger — in ‘Coming Through the Rye’



COOLIDGE CORNER THEATRE

Alex Wolff stars in “Coming Through the Rye.”

By Peter Keough | GLOBE CORRESPONDENT OCTOBER 27, 2016

Ironically, the phoniness that iconic teen romantic Holden Caulfield despised pervades Jim Sadwith’s “Coming through the Rye,” a semi-autobiographical tale of hero worship and literary integrity. That is until J.D. Salinger himself, portrayed by

a commanding Chris Cooper, shows up near the end of the movie and establishes authenticity.

Comments

In a superficially rendered 1969, 16-year-old Jamie Schwartz (Alex Wolff, who sometimes looks like a young Bob Dylan, and other times like McLovin, in “Superbad”) has suffered through three years at Crampton Academy. The institution is less like Wes Anderson’s Rushmore and more like the hazing-crazy prep school in the recent release “Goat.” Nerdy by nature and with aspirations to genius, Jamie offers an irresistible target to jocks and other bullies. At first the film affects a whimsical, self-deprecating attitude to this mistreatment, and Jamie directly addresses the camera with would-be Woody Allen-like asides. But the tone shifts not so much dramatically as chaotically, falling into self-pitying darkness as the harassment intensifies.

Jamie copes with this familiar adolescent tragedy with two obsessions. He develops a crush on a local high school girl brought in to perform female roles in the Crampton drama society’s productions (she plays Juliet; Jamie plays . . . Mercutio). And he idolizes J.D. Salinger. He regards “The Catcher in the Rye” as a sacred text, and imagines himself as Holden Caulfield. He sports Holden’s signature red hunting hat. No wonder the other kids hate him.

CONTINUE READING

Stay updated, right in your news feed.

Like 404K

Most Popular in Arts



TV CRITIC'S CORNER

The fall TV shows have all premiered. Let's give awards.

Here's a look at the best and worst of the new batch. [MORE...](#)