



# Anything But

No powers and little fun in *Super*

**SUPER:** Written and directed by James Gunn. Cinematography, Steve Gainer. Editor, Cara Silverman. Music, Tyler Bates. Starring Rainn Wilson, Ellen Page, Liv Tyler and Kevin Bacon. IFC Midnight, 2011. 96 minutes. Unrated. ★★☆☆☆

While there's something to be said for — and enjoyed about — the casting of Kevin Bacon as a skeezy drug dealer/wife stealer/generic bad dude, there's little else about writer-

director James Gunn's *Super* that makes me want to say much of anything. Mostly, I want to give this movie the bird. The story of an ordinary schlub who turns himself into a costumed vigilante after a vision of from God (and Nathan Fillion as a cheerily smug religious television superhero), *Super* is another film that enjoys trying to make the audience feel like worthless creeps for wanting to watch it. Like *Sucker Punch*,

*Super* makes the audience complicit in its semi-lucid commentary on exactly what it's dishing out. Like superheroes? Comic books? Cartoon violence? What the hell is the matter with you? Don't you realize that violence is actually messy and vile, not stylized and sleek?

Gunn (*Slither*) clearly knows and likes comics, which is part of what makes *Super* such a frustrating, disjointed

viewing experience. The film's characters are universally loathsome, from needy, whiny Frank (Rainn Wilson), who becomes the Crimson Bolt after his wife leaves him for Bacon's Jaques, to Libby (Ellen Page), whose sole character trait is that she's thoughtless and inappropriate. Where Frank wants to rid the world of evil and get back the girl, Libby, who positions herself as Frank's sidekick after she learns his secret identity, just wants to beat the shit out of people. If you root for her, you're siding with a sociopathic twentysomething who tears into a random bad guy with her Wolverine claws. If you root against her, you're hating on a misguided young woman who works in a comic book store and probably would never have taken a sculpture to the head of a classmate if not for Frank's example. Page dives headlong into Libby, and her performance works — she's even more disturbing than she was in the excellent *Hard Candy* — but to what end? Is it mockery or sincerity? Satire, send-up or straightforward story of a man unhinged by loss (and a young woman just purely unhinged)? Gunn transforms his semi-funny superhero-ribbing into an uber-violent bloodbath and nearly pulls off a faux-inspiring closure that really, really has to be sarcastic but made me facepalm in the theater nonetheless. *Super* is successful at shifting gears, but the whole thing feels punishing — to the audience, the characters, the genre. **EW**

*Super opens Friday, April 22, at the Bijou.*



a pint  
is just right!

Dari Mart proudly introduces Lochmead ice cream in a convenient snack-sized pint.

Count on Dari Mart for the freshest milk and ice cream.

All natural Lochmead ice cream, now in pints!



**DARI MART**  
Our family's best.

VOTED #1 BY EW READERS

2007 BEST BAR, FOOD, BEST HAPPY HOUR

2010 BEST LATE-NIGHT EATS

**HORSESHOE BAR**

SPARKING DOWNTOWN REVIVAL SINCE 2002

- ⊕ LOTS OF NINKASI
- ⊕ PATIO SEATING
- ⊕ DOWN HOME CHOW
- ⊕ WALL ART
- ⊕ PBR-CHEAP!
- ⊕ GOOD DRINKS
- ⊕ BUNCH OF POOL TABLES
- ⊕ VIDEO GAMES (NO POKER)

"GO EMERALD CITY ROLLER GIRLS!"

SCAN FOR OUR MENU

99 WEST BROADWAY  
541-683-3154

Women's Health & Annual Exams

Anne Marie Moore, WHNP-BC

541-393-2334

Friendly, personalized & compassionate healthcare

Nurse Practitioner, Board Certified  
annemariemoore.com

Karma's Forest

Wholesale Nursery & Organic Gardens

Native Trees, Shrubs, and Perennials

Consciously Grown Without Chemical Fertilizers or Pesticides

For Habitat Enhancement, Watershed Restoration, Garden & Landscape Design

Wholesale & Retail Sales by Appointment

Phone: 541-998-2436

Email: karmasforest@yahoo.com

Highway 36 Cheshire www.karmasforest.com