



SAFETY NOT GUARANTEED

Spring
Season
2013

Release: 2012

Cert (UK):15

Runtime: 86 mins

Director: Colin Trevorrow

Language: English

Cast: Aubrey Plaza, Mark Duplass, Jake Johnson



This first feature by San Francisco-based director Colin Trevorrow is very much a whimsical product of the Sundance Institute's brand of independent cinema. It was nominated for various awards around the US including Grand Jury Prize at Sundance, and it has earned Trevorrow the chance to direct *'Jurassic Park IV'*, due out next year.

Safety Not Guaranteed is produced by the people behind "Little Miss Sunshine" and apparently inspired by an actual newspaper ad. *'Safety Not Guaranteed'* has at its centre a typical off-centre character - a young woman called Darius (Aubrey Plaza), a recent graduate who is amusingly observed drifting in a world she finds empty and pointless. She finally gets a job as an intern on a smart Seattle magazine and is picked, more or less at random, along with an intense young Indian to assist on a story being written by a cynical, ageing hippie, Jeff (Jake Johnson).

Jeff is about to investigate a small ad in a Washington state newspaper inviting the right applicant to take part in an experiment in time travel, giving a mailbox number in a small seaside resort and adding the caution "safety not guaranteed". It's an intriguing prospect that takes the devious, tight-fisted Jeff and his protégés to a seedy, out-of-season resort where they play detective, hunting down the would-be time traveller to the local branch of a grocery chain. He's Kenneth (played by the surly, good-looking Duplass), a clerk and shelf-stacker of a conspiratorial bent, living alone in a dilapidated house.

The film is a happy study in discontent... we are left wondering 'is it actually a thriller, black comedy or both?'

