

Movies

by Leah Rozen



Rogen (left) and Banks devise a creative way to pay the rent.

Zack and Miri Make a Porno

Seth Rogen, Elizabeth Banks, Traci Lords, Jason Mewes,
Craig Robinson | R | ★★☆☆

COMEDY

If the economy continues its nosedive, the improbable fund-raising scheme hatched in desperation by the title characters in *Zack and Miri Make a Porno* may no longer seem so far-fetched. Underachievers Zack (Rogen) and Miri (Banks), platonic pals urgently in need of dough, decide to star in a dirty movie—a *Star Wars* parody called *Star Whores*—and sell it online. Zack's rationale: "Porno has gone mainstream, like Coke or Pepsi."

Just as those X-rated specialty cakes shaped like bosoms and other naughty bits let buyers have their risqué fun and eat it too, so the likable, lackadaisical *Porno* is determined to have it both ways. While its raunchy humor is often near-hardcore (don't take Grandma!), the film boasts a decidedly mushy, softcore heart. Director-writer Kevin Smith (*Dogma*) steers Zack and Miri to realize—cue the violins—that their feelings for each other run far deeper than their desire to make the next *Deep Throat*. Banks is pertly amusing while Rogen, playing a close variation of his *Knocked Up* slacker, again demonstrates his basic slob appeal.

KRISTIN SCOTT
THOMAS

GETS DOWN AND DIRTY

● The actress, 48, has Oscar buzz as an ex-con in *I've Loved You So Long*.

DID YOU LIKE SHOOTING THE FILM WITHOUT MAKEUP?

I loved having to leave vanity at the door. I never had to look at myself during the shooting of the film once.

ANY DOWNSIDES TO PLAYING AN EX-CON?

The cigarettes I had to smoke! I couldn't even look at another one for months afterward.

WHAT'S BEEN YOUR FAVORITE REVIEW SO FAR?

Somebody compared my performance to Steve McQueen. That's the ultimate compliment to me: to be compared to a man! —OLIVER JONES

