

The Kings of Summer – Review

Directed by Jordan Vogt-Roberts in his full-length debut, *The Kings of Summer* has picked up comparisons to films as **totally** different to each other as *Superbad* (2007) and *Stand By Me* (1986), and in **truth** it does lie **somewhere between** the two - the common **thread**, of course, being that all three are, at **heart**, **sweet** stories about coming of age.

Here, this predominantly means **escape** from one's **parents**. Joe, Patrick and **oddball** Biaggio (played by Nick Robinson, Gabriel Basso and Moises Arias respectively) decide to make a **bid** for **freedom** by building their own house in the



woods, where they can spend the **summer** away from their **overbearing** families and dull home life. (Nick Offerman of *Parks and Recreation* and the second season of *Fargo* is excellent as Joe's recently **widowed** father.)



The Kings of Summer is a **gem** of a picture, and its three young stars convey the simultaneous sense of boredom, frustration and wonder that often informs adolescence beautifully. **Refreshingly** unlike other, **bawdier** teen romps, its large supporting cast adds colour and dimension to a sub-genre desperately in need of **revitalisation**. Vogt-Roberts' next picture will be the big budget King Kong reimagining *Kong: Skull Island*, set for release

in 2017; one can only hope his **lightness** of touch remains.