



Dogma

Kevin Smith

USA, 1999

125 minutes ■ Colour/35mm
 Production Company: **View Askew**
 Producer: **Scott Mosier**
 Screenplay: **Kevin Smith**
 Cinematographer: **Robert Yeoman**
 Editors: **Kevin Smith, Scott Mosier**
 Production Designer: **Robert "Ratface" Holtzman**
 Sound: **Richard Hymns**
 Music: **Howard Shore**
 Principal Cast: **Ben Affleck, Matt Damon, Linda Fiorentino, Salma Hayek, Jason Lee, Alan Rickman, Chris Rock**

Print Source: **View Askew, 3 Harding Road, Red Bank, NJ 07701, USA.**
 T (732) 842-6933 F (732) 842-3772

Foreign Sales Agent: **Miramax International, 99 Hudson Street, New York, NY 10013, USA.**
 T (212) 219-4100 F (212) 941-3836

Production: **View Askew, 3 Harding Road, Red Bank, NJ 07701, USA.**
 T (732) 842-6933 F (732) 842-3772

"All along, I've thought how seriously can you take a movie that has a rubber poop monster in it?"

— Kevin Smith

Like most crass attempts at mass censorship, the fire-and-brimstone sermons raining down from Catholic pulpits on *Dogma* point to a bitter irony. Kevin Smith's new film is not only a highly imaginative and cleverly written comedy, but also an impressively sincere and elegantly conceived treatise on the nature of faith itself. If those old guys in the robes had any sense, they would realize that they couldn't find a better advertisement for spiritual faith and the power of religious metaphor.

Loki (Matt Damon) and Bartleby (Ben Affleck) are two dopey (if cute) angels suffering everlasting exile in Wisconsin for an ancient trespass against the Lord. But they have discovered a loophole that can get them back to Heaven. In a "Catholicism Now!" campaign geared towards making the Church more accessible, no-questions-asked absolutions are being granted to the first people to walk under the arch of a newly-sanctified church in New Jersey. But not only will this send the two fallen angels back upstairs, it will also prove God's fallibility and, in so doing, bring the world to an end.

Metatron (Alan Rickman), the Lord's jaded messenger, comes to Bethany (Linda Fiorentino), a distant descendant of Jesus

Christ, to save the day. A Catholic abortion clinic worker, she was suffering a crisis of faith even before the dude with wings entered her life. Soon she sets out on her mission and, like Dorothy in *The Wizard of Oz*, gathers some strange creatures to help her out. They include Rufus (Chris Rock), the 13th Apostle, cut out of the Bible because he was black; celestial muse and stripper Serendipity (Salma Hayek); and the lascivious Jay and Silent Bob (Jason Mewes and Smith himself, the continuing Greek chorus from his earlier films).

Obviously, madness (and lots of great jokes) ensue.

■ Noah Cowan



Kevin Smith was born in New Jersey in 1970. He made his directorial debut in 1994 with the award-winning *Clerks*, which he has since turned into a comic book venture and an upcoming animated television series. Feature films include: *Clerks* (94), *Mallrats* (95),

Chasing Amy (97) and *Dogma* (99).