Written by Samuel Zimmerman
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You might find difficulty being eloquent when it comes to navigating and expressing thoughts on YOU'RE NEXT. If so, it's because the literal buzzing you're left with, upon its end, gives you essentially one word: great. YOU'RE NEXT is great.

Just as the home invasion resurgence begins to wear out its welcome, Adam Wingard and Simon Barrett (A HORRIBLE WAY TO DIE) have crafted a surprise; something fun. Eschewing the standard devastation and harrowing beat-downs we've become accustomed to, the immensely clever script by Barret and equally smart direction by Wingard is assured, witty and expertly subverts expectations in a way that absolutely slays a packed house.

Easily, one of the smartest moves is cast and crew. As YOU'RE NEXT is about the deadly siege on a dysfunctional family reunion, the familial atmosphere of the writer/director as well as past collaborators and friends gives the film a real energy and chemistry, only aided by constant, crowd-pleasing forward motion. AJ Bowen stars as Crispian, bringing his girlfriend Erin (Sharni Vinson) to celebrate his parents' (Rob Moran and Barbara Crampton) anniversary along with his sister, her boyfriend (Amy Seimetz and Ti West) and two brothers and their respective sweethearts (Joe Swanberg and Margaret Laney and Nicholas Tucci and Wendy Glenn) in a scenic country home. The chaos hits early on and it's a real testament to the talent on display-both acting and script-that the relationships can be clearly, yet minimally defined perfectly enough beforehand (and happily continue to do so midst the bloodbath).

It starts with an arrow. The animal-masked intruders unload their crossbows during a particularly tense dinner, one moment of many in which indie filmmaker Joe Swanberg proceeds to steal scenes with his smarmy performance as young Republican, Drake. And while Swanberg is most definitely a standout of the ensemble, YOU'RE NEXT absolutely belongs to Sharni Vinson.

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