

R. CRUMB IN HEAVEN + JANE FONDA IN HELL + THE PERFECT MARTINI

ELECTION

ENDORSEMENTS

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LOST



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OPENING THIS WEEK

GO **LOST** Writer-director Darren Lemke's likable thriller shows surprising smarts for a low-budget debut, cribbing from all the right sources: Spielberg's TV movie *Duel*, desert road movies like *Vanishing Point*, and Larry Cohen's nervy scenario for *Phone Booth*. Here we come upon Jeremy Stanton (Dean Cain, a.k.a. Clark Kent) on a Nevada back road looking for his way back to civilization after one too many detours. Dressed like a prosperous young salesman, Stanton speaks with easy authority to the disembodied voice of the "Road-Aid" road-assistance operator. As Stanton becomes more and more lost, his last 24 hours come to light through short, vivid flashbacks as his cell phone becomes a lifeline



to friends, family and pursuers. Lemke handles the inherent staginess of the scenario with ease, keeping his camera tight on Cain and occasional other actors, increasing the sense of claustrophobia under the vast Nevada sky. A radio call-in show, an "Audio Guru" self-help tape, and sequence intertitles taken from the Road-Aid Travel Guide all provide nice counterpoint to the action in Lemke's elaborate screenplay, and if he sometimes overuses the ever-popular elliptical jump-cut, this is nevertheless an assured first film. (*One Colorado Cinemas; Fairfax; Mann Exchange 10*) (Jon Strickland)