

MOVIES CINEMACON



Sonny Hayes (Brad Pitt, right) mentors Formula 1 prodigy Joshua Pearce (Damson Idris) in "F1." PROVIDED BY WARNER BROS. PICTURES/APPLE ORIGINAL FILMS

Pitt shows drive and the need for speed in 'F1' peek

Brian Truitt
USA TODAY

LAS VEGAS – If you ever wondered how Brad Pitt might do in traffic, here comes "F1."

The new racing movie from the makers of "Top Gun: Maverick" – director Joseph Kosinski and producer Jerry Bruckheimer – has the same need for speed and competitive attitude, as evidenced in the first 10 minutes of the film that premiered Tuesday during CinemaCon, the conference for theater owners and studios.

Sonny Hayes (Pitt) is a hired gun who goes wherever someone needs something driven fast. The film opens with him starting his day in his minibus home doing some pullups, but it's actually night: He's driving for a Formula 1 team at 24 Hours of Daytona, and he's got the midnight shift. Sonny puts on his helmet, pauses for a little prayer and then jumps in the driver's seat.

His team's in seventh place, but that's no problem because Sonny drives like a veteran bat out of hell, passing some opponents and causing others a little undue chaos. If you thought "Top Gun" was exciting, buckle up, folks.

Hours later, Sonny arrives back in the

pit in first place. "If you lose this lead, I'll kill you," Sonny warns the next guy up. (He also grabs a wrench when one of his rival racers gets a little salty.)

Sonny's team wins, he gets a bonus check and moves on. At a laundromat, however, his old friend Ruben (Javier Bardem) tracks him down and offers him a job: If Ruben doesn't get out of a \$250 million hole and start winning, he'll lose his racing team.

The footage ends with Sonny laughing in Ruben's face, but of course he takes the gig. The movie centers on Sonny mentoring a young F1 prodigy (Damson Idris) to prepare for a major race.

And when you watch it, that is Pitt really in there ripping around at 180 mph. Last month during a trailer launch event, Kosinski reported that F1 icon Lewis Hamilton, a producer on the movie, felt Pitt was just right role for this particular role.

"One of the first things we did was go out on the track in sports cars, because Lewis wanted to see if Brad could drive, because if not, this won't work," Kosinski said. "When Lewis saw that he was naturally gifted at the wheel, it gave him confidence."

Contributing: Marco della Cava

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Krypto steals the show in DC's new 'Superman' footage

Brian Truitt
USA TODAY

LAS VEGAS – Rachel Brosnahan recalled a night filming "Superman" where the newest Man of Steel, co-star David Corenswet, looked especially superheroic with his cape flapping in the moonlight. She reminded him that he was Superman, with an f-bomb for emphasis.

"I forget I'm in the suit. It's like a haircut. But those are the best moments," Corenswet confessed during Tuesday's DC Studios presentation at CinemaCon.

While writer/director James Gunn might have slipped and accidentally called CinemaCon "Comic-Con," he knew that theater owners and comic-book fans are very excited about all things "Superman." The film (in theaters July 11) is the launchpad for a rebooted DC movie universe and a throwback to the days of Christopher Reeve as a charismatic, do-gooding Superman without a shred of cynicism.

Superman's dog Krypto, however, stole the show: Gunn showed the audience an exclusive scene where Superman, injured and bloodied, crashlands in the Arctic and whistles to Krypto to have his canine best friend take him to the Fortress of Solitude to recover. Krypto, however, thinks he's playing and starts jumping on him and roughhousing, doing more damage. And once they get back and fix Superman up, our hero is not pleased that Krypto's pretty much run amok and wrecked the place in his absence.

The pooch was inspired by Gunn's rescue dog, Ozu. When the filmmaker brought the him home, Gunn said, "he was the worst dog you could ever imagine." Ozu chewed up everything he could – including a new \$8,000 laptop – and Gunn would have to climb on furniture because Ozu would run around trying to bite his feet. "I didn't know if he was playing or he hated my guts."



David Corenswet is the latest to wear the signature cape of the Man of Steel in James Gunn's "Superman." PROVIDED BY WARNER BROS. PICTURES AND DC COMICS

New Man of Steel Corenswet even won over an evil Nicholas Hoult

Gunn, who did Marvel's "Guardians of the Galaxy" trilogy before becoming co-head of DC Studios, called the story he tells in "Superman" "utterly human and utterly fantastic at the same time." Playing love interest/ace Daily Planet reporter Lois Lane, Brosnahan added that "there's something for everyone," from high adventure to an epic love story. "It was hugely intimidating but these stories at their core are about hope and being courageous and (how) good is always worth fighting for."

"Superman is a cool guy who does the right thing because it's the right thing."

The new Supes' goodness even impressed his archenemy: Nicholas Hoult, who plays the villainous Lex Luthor, remembered watching one scene being filmed where Corenswet flew onto set in full regalia. "I felt like I was witness to the magic of cinema in first person in real time," Hoult said. "I'm evil, I hate him, but I got this warmth in my tummy and this stupid grin. I turned around and (crew) people had the same expression on their face."

Corenswet said that "Superman" at its core is ultimately a movie about "love and hope and a desire to share," and Gunn added that he hoped audience members will walk out and "love the person they came in with a little bit more."



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