

Language

English

Sex and Guns and Robert Pattinson Spell Global Meltdown in David Cronenberg's "Cosmopolis" Trailer



Courtesy Alfama Films

Robert Pattinson in "Cosmopolis"

by Graham Fuller

Published: March 26, 2012

The first [trailer](#) for "Cosmopolis" is a decadent blast of white noise and black necropolitana – almost an end zone unto itself – scored to a portentous metronomic beat. Just 30 seconds long, the rapidly cut teaser, released last Friday, gives zero information about **David Cronenberg**'s hungrily anticipated adaptation of **Don DeLillo**'s 2003 dystopian novel. Instead it bludgeons viewers with a stroboscopic montage of **Robert Pattinson**, alternately ravenous and jaded, indulging in sex and/or gunplay with various women – "I'm looking for more ... aim and fire ... hit the switch," the naked RPattz requests of the bare-breasted Medusa who's pointing a revolver at him in the first "scene."

Juliette Binoche can be seen writhing in a little black dress and being penetrated from behind in the

Pattinson's character's limo; **Samantha Morton**'s in there, too, turning her pale moon face to look out of a window. A dinosaur lumbers (rather than rampages) across what might be Times Square. Pattinson stabs a wraith-like man in the eye. The whole thing looks like it was shot not by the Canadian auteur, but by French cinema's Argentinian enfant terrible **Gaspar Noé** in amped-up "Enter the Void" mode. It's calculatedly cliché-d, as most trailers are, and, because it's Cronenberg, tantalizing.

"A Dangerous Method" was (give or take the spankings and **Keira Knightley**'s admirable histrionics) a comparatively serene entry for Cronenberg and a period piece to boot, so it was more than likely he would follow it with a more visceral and contemporary piece.

Taking its cue from **James Joyce**'s "Ulysses," DeLillo's densely metaphorical novel follows the day-long odyssey across Manhattan of a 28-year-old billionaire asset manager, Eric Packer (played by Patterson), whose immediate goal is to get a (Samson-ian?) haircut but whose seeming destiny is to self-destruct and bring about universal economic collapse. There's a presidential motorcade in town, an idolized rapper's funeral adds to the gridlock, assassins lurk in the shadows, and a massive anti-globalization protest pre-echoes the Occupy Wall Street movement.

Although the book wasn't well reviewed, it's surely ripe for one of Cronenberg's more rigorously topical films – think body-politic-horror. The signs are that it will premiere at the Cannes Film Festival in May.

Watch the trailer for David Cronenberg's "Cosmopolis" [here](#)

by Graham Fuller, [Performing Arts](#), [Film](#), [Performing Arts](#), [Film](#)