

Short Review: “Independence Day” (1996) by Dr. John L. Flynn



Independence Day (1996). 20th Century Fox, color, 145 min. Director: Roland Emmerich.

Writers: Dean Devlin and Emmerich. Producer: Devlin. Cast: Bill Pullman, Mary McDonnell, Jeff Goldblum, Margaret Colin and Will Smith.

Atmospheric anomalies on July 2 are matched with giant objects approaching earth, and by July 3, every major city in the world is threatened with destruction by giant spaceships piloted by unfriendly aliens. A scientist (Goldblum), a fighter pilot (Smith), the President of the United States (Pullman), and a cast of just plain folks with a badass attitude decide to get even with the aliens on July 4, Independence Day. The special effects are fun; the characters are borrowed from daily soap operas, and the aliens look like escapees from H. R. Giger’s studio. But the film is literally a blast from the past! Rent “Earth Versus the Flying Saucers,” and you’ll have a great double-bill. Released during the dog-days of the Clinton presidency, audiences literally cheered out loud when the White House was destroyed by the aliens. Too bad Bill, Hilary and Monica weren’t home that day when the aliens came calling.

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