

# Independence Day

## Greater Union

Before viewing this film I had heard a number of fairly strong criticisms of it. These complaints were mainly about the pathetic plot line of the film and the nauseatingly American patriotic crap. So, I went into the film with fairly low expectations, however, I found that it was a great escapist action film experience. The film is an alien invasion movie; and on a straight-forward action level it is highly successful. There are (as to be expected) terrific digitalised visual effects. The mother ship spewing forth hundreds of alien fighter ships that engage with American fighters is a visual spectacular.

The appeal of this film lies entirely with the audience suspending disbelief at the door and revelling in the action and excitement of this 90's film of a B-grade science fiction plot.

An aspect of this film that makes it great to suckers of sci-fi movies, such as

myself, is the number of small allusions throughout the film to other greats of this genre, such as 2001, ET, and War of the Worlds. There are other small touches throughout the film that made it work well, such as a television announcement telling LA residents to stop shooting at the alien space craft, and the inclusion of Area 51 (the area alleged to

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hold the Roswell UFO, of which there is an interesting web site for those interested).

Where this movie really does fall down is the weak predictable plot, the characters which are not terribly exciting or developed and of course the nauseating American patriotic crap. The movie is of course totally Americo-centric, but I certainly wouldn't expect anything less from Hollywood. Sydney does get a two second cameo though. A



point about the film that did bug me was how all the females were so pathetic. All they did was hang off men's arms and marry them. Even at the point in which they are calling for civilian pilots to fight the aliens, not a single female is present. True the plot was a 50's sci-fi stereotype, but the women didn't need to be. Despite these problems it is still a fun

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escapist experience.

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