



Aliens On Earth.com

Resources for those who are stranded here



Our Bookstore is OPEN

Over 5000 new & used titles, competitively priced!

Topics: [UFOs](#) - [Paranormal](#) - [Area 51](#) - [Ghosts](#) - [Fortean](#) - [Conspiracy](#) - [History](#) - [Biography](#) - [Psychology](#) - [Religion](#) - [Crime](#) - [Health](#) - [Geography](#) - [Maps](#) - [Science](#) - [Money](#) - [Language](#) - [Recreation](#) - [Technology](#) - [Fiction](#) - [Other](#) - [New](#)

Search... for keyword(s)

in Page Titles

[Mothership](#) -> [UFO](#) -> [Updates](#) -> [1998](#) -> [May](#) -> Here

UFO UpDates Mailing List

Re: Final Re-Edit Of 'Close Encounters' Ready

From: [Stig Agermose@online.pol.dk](mailto:Stig.Agermose@online.pol.dk) (Stig Agermose)
Date: Fri, 1 May 1998 05:39:51 +0200
Fwd Date: Fri, 01 May 1998 07:44:53 -0400
Subject: Re: Final Re-Edit Of 'Close Encounters' Ready

>From the Los Angeles Times Syndicate via CNN. URL:

<http://www.cnn.com/SHOWBIZ/9804/30/home.video.lat/index.html>

Home video: New 'Close Encounters' cut ready for collectors

By Scott Hettrick

CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE THIRD KIND: THE COLLECTOR'S EDITION (Columbia TriStar, VHS priced for sell-through with a minimum advertised price of \$13.95, laserdisc \$79.95, rated PG) 1977. Directed by Steven Spielberg; starring Richard Dreyfuss, Melinda Dillon, Teri Garr and Francois Truffaut.

Not to be confused with "Close Encounters of the Third Kind: The Special Edition," this third and supposedly final re-edit of the 1977 movie about man's first official and friendly encounter with aliens from Steven Spielberg removes the final nearly three-minute segment inside the alien Mothership that was added against Spielberg's wishes in order for the studio to justify re-releasing the Special Edition theatrically (in 1980).

Although the Special Edition generated only \$13.6 million in grosses compared to \$114 million for the original, it is the Special Edition that most people are familiar with, because it is the edition that has been distributed on video and shown on TV.

Spielberg claimed that he was so rushed into releasing the 135-minute original in time for Christmas, 1977, that he didn't have time to edit the movie as he really wanted. He made at least 14 changes for the 132-minute Special Edition, many of which involved minor trimming of scenes, such as the introduction of Roy, the Richard Dreyfuss character, playing with his model trains; Roy at the power station just before he heads out in his truck and has his first "encounter"; Roy seeing the shape of Devil's Tower in his pillow after visualizing the same shape in his shaving cream; Roy slowly coming to sit at the dinner table, joining his family, before he forms Devil's Tower out of his mashed potatoes; and an extended scene of animals and other chaos at the train station near Devil's Tower, including an encounter between Roy and a military guard played by a post-"Rocky" Carl Weathers.

The total running time of those cuts (which can be seen in the Voyager's Criterion Collection laserdisc edition of the original cut of the movie) and a handful of insignificant others equals less than five

minutes, and they remain the same in this new 137-minute collector's edition available on both VHS and laserdisc in standard and wide screen formats. Spielberg still refuses to allow any of his movies to be released on the new DVD platform, but the laserdisc offers a far superior picture and color tones than the new VHS, which is muted and grainy.

Spielberg swapping around same scenes

One of the two most significant cuts Spielberg made for the Special Edition was to remove a nearly four-minute press conference held by the Air Force to dispel the reported sightings of UFOs by Roy and other locals. The other was to trim more than four-and-a-half minutes of the scene in which Roy is so energized to create a physical manifestation of the image that has been planted in his mind that he runs around his yard like a madman in his bathrobe, tearing out plants, ripping out fencing and throwing it all through the kitchen window of his house.

The director also added the ending scene inside the spaceship and threw in a courtesy five-second shot onto the end of the scene of the UFOs flying around the mountain road to show them pausing momentarily and shining their lights on a McDonald's billboard.

These two additions again have been removed for this new collector's edition, while the two scenes involving the press conference and Roy gathering yard materials have been restored.

One could easily wonder why Spielberg continues to tinker with this movie two decades after its initial release, particularly when the changes simply involve rearranging, inserting and withdrawing the same old scenes as originally shot. It's not as if he has used the advances in technology to incorporate new special effects, as George Lucas did last year with "Star Wars."

Movie admittedly dated

In fact, Spielberg's Capra-esque (read hopeful) view of alien encounters is probably the most dated and weakest of his pictures because of its focus on the special-effects-laden final encounter. Although that encounter generated enormous awe in 1977, much like the knee-buckling shock of the first view of dinosaurs in "Jurassic Park," it lost much of its surprise appeal after the first viewing and has far less impact now with the advancement of special effects in movies over the last two decades.

In a 15-minute "making of" documentary included in the VHS version of the collector's edition (the laserdisc is slated to have a 100-minute documentary on the making of the movie), Spielberg says the movie even dates him personally, as it shows his protagonist Roy choosing to leave his wife and children without even saying goodbye, as he volunteers to go off with the aliens in their spaceship. Spielberg says he could not fathom that now that he has become a husband and father.

After all is accounted for, this new collector's edition does restore some of focus back on the human characters rather than the aliens, giving the film more depth. The scene in which Roy becomes so obsessed at his home not only gives justification to his wife taking the kids and leaving him, it also offers some of the movie's best glimpses of humor, heart and humanity.

Two other scenes added to the Special Edition that remain in this edition accomplish the same thing: The three-minute, 30-second scene in which Roy tries to convince his kids that the family should go see "Pinocchio" instead of going to the Goofy Golf course, and the scene in which Roy is sitting fully clothed in the bathtub with the shower on, which causes his wife to go into a rage, fearing that her husband has lost control of himself.

Steven Spielberg knows exactly what he's doing.

(c) 1998, Scott Hettrick. Distributed by Los Angeles Times Syndicate

Related sites:

Note: Related sites will open in a new browser window.

*Internet Movie Database -- "Close Encounters of the Third Kind"

*Related Site

*Sound off on our message boards & chat

=A9 1998 Cable News Network, Inc.
A Time Warner Company

All Rights Reserved.

[[Next Message](#) | [Previous Message](#) | [This Day's Messages](#)]
[[This Month's Index](#) | [UFO UpDates Main Index](#) | [MUFON Ontario](#)]

UFO UpDates - Toronto - updates@globalserve.net

Operated by Errol Bruce-Knapp - ++ 416-696-0304

A Hand-Operated E-Mail Subscription Service for the Study of UFO Related Phenomena.

To subscribe please send your first and last name to updates@globalserve.net

Message submissions should be sent to the same address.

[[UFO Topics](#) | [People](#) | [Ufomind What's New](#) | [Ufomind Top Level](#)]

To find this message again in the future...
Link it to the appropriate [Ufologist](#) or [UFO Topic](#) page.

Archived as a public service by [Area 51 Research Center](#) which is not responsible for content.

Software by Glenn Campbell. Technical contact: webmaster@ufomind.com

Financial support for this web server is provided by the [Research Center Catalog](#).