

# The Abyss: Not worth the hype or the budget

By Lori Gallinger  
YELLIN' REBEL

*The Abyss*, or perhaps better titled *The Abysmal Abyss*, is one of those movies where you just shake your head afterwards, saying, "Why, why did I actually, of my own free will, endure such a film?"

Yes, the lighting and cinematography were really nice, but it takes more than a glitzy piece of celluloid to make it in my book. It isn't even all that original; just your basic James Cameron fare which, in the past, hasn't been too bad.

*The Terminator* was pretty good, as was *Aliens*, but plug in cute, gentle, pastel aliens for the black meanies and the blackness of the deep sea for the blackness of space and you've essentially got the same

thing. There was nothing really original here. The aliens bore a striking resemblance to those in *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*, and that's what *The Abyss* reminds me of, a glass of brownish goo that could have been a luscious steak dinner.

the characters were your stereotypical Cameron characters, the strong female lead, the good guy, and the

evil government and/or megacorporation representative.

The movie never focused on one subject, never followed one story through; a number of the plotlines could have made an interesting film, but so many ideas were just melded together. It's like throwing a five course meal in the blender. What could've made a tasty dish, is just a glass of brownish goo; and perhaps

Everything about this film is just dismal; dismal I tell you. Acting, well it's difficult to tell: The characters were so boringly typical (Ed Harris and Mary Elizabeth Mastrantonio as the couple who cannot live with or without each other, Michael Biehn as the tough commander and a rough and ready crew). Lawrence Olivier couldn't have made any of them interesting. What can the best

director or editor do with a piece of crap story like this (that's not to say that the director and editor were the best in the world).

You don't see enough of the mysterious alien force to particularly care; but we've seen these aliens before anyway, eyelash for eyelash they're the same ones

that debuted in *Close Encounters* they even resembled E.T. just a bit. And while I like both of those films, and their respective aliens, I was hoping for something a bit different.

I could even have handled the characters and the story though, but for God's sake the flick was so full of plot holes that I just had to laugh and wonder where I went wrong.

Why was I here, enduring this monstrosity? A plot hole, by the way, is a technical flaw in the storyline; an occurrence that just doesn't make any sense, is impossible in the real world.

An example? Well, one character swims quite a distance underwater, in extremely cold water, without a wetsuit, without any consideration of the immense pressures at extreme depths in the ocean.

Logically he should not have been able to do this, plus rise out of the water and be fairly nimble in a fight with a trained, ultra efficient, psychotic militaryman.

Yes, the lighting and cinematography were notable, there were some really nice underwater shots and whole look is glitzy and high budget. But even so, do yourself a favor and miss *The Abyss*.

## MUSICAL SCENE



Aug 15-PARADISE ALLEY (362-ROCK): Julian Lennon (Rock)  
HOB NOB LOUNGE (734-2426): TUESDAY NIGHT JAZZ - Ray Black (Jazz)  
COURTHOUSE (870-5989): The Press (Jazz)  
HALF TIME LOUNGE (458-8848): Dr. Ron DiFilips Ear Treatment (Jazz)  
CALAMITY JAYNES (384-4591): Joe Locatelli Group (Jazz)

Aug 17-MASQUERADE LOUNGE (878-3788): Mirage (Jazz)  
CALAMITY JAYNES: Tom Grant/The Press (Jazz)

Aug 18-T-MEX (794-4544): Love Dog and The Holy Love Snakes (Rock)  
CALAMITY JAYNES: Shakin' Dominos (Rock)  
HALF TIME LOUNGE: Dr. Ron DiFilips Ear Treatment (Jazz)  
MASQUERADE LOUNGE: Mirage (Jazz)  
POGO'S: FRIDAY NITE JAZZ (various artists)

Aug 19-T-MEX: KUNV NIGHTS w/Weenie Roast and Forest Murmurs (Rock)  
MASQUERADE LOUNGE: Mirage (Jazz)

Aug 20-DOC 'N' EDDIES (368-4524): Tripple Ripple (Rock)  
MOULIN ROUGE CLUB (648-5040): The Last Generation Jazz Band (Jazz)  
CHEZ POLLEE'S CAFE (648-8411): Jay Cameron and Friends (Jazz)  
PLAY IT AGAIN SAM (876-1550): JAM SESSION (musicians welcome)(Jazz)

Aug 21-4 QUEENS FRENCH QUARTER LOUNGE (385-4011): ALAN GRANT'S MONDAY NIGHT JAZZ w/ James Toney  
COURTHOUSE: The Press (Jazz)

Aug 22-CALAMITY JAYNES: The Busboys (Rock)  
THE HOB NOB LOUNGE: TUESDAY NITE JAZZ w/Jay Cameron  
COURTHOUSE: The Press (Jazz)  
HALF TIME LOUNGE: Dr. Ron DiFilips Ear Treatment (Jazz)

Aug 24-T-MEX: Stink Bug/Disorderly Conduct (Jazz),  
MASQUERADE LOUNGE: Mirage (Jazz)

Aug 25-T-MEX: Paladins/Roughnecks/Beat Planet (Rock)  
HALF TIME LOUNGE: Dr. Ron DiFilips Ear Treatment (Jazz)  
MASQUERADE LOUNGE: Mirage (Jazz)  
POGO'S: FRIDAY NIGHT JAZZ (various artists)

Aug 26-T-MEX: KUNV NIGHT w/Marshmallow Overcoat/Jigsaw Scene  
ELKS LODGE, HENDERSON (call LVAC-382-5636): Mannequin Beach/Leper Bureaucracy/  
Schizoid (?) (Rock)  
MASQUERADE LOUNGE: Mirage (Jazz)

Aug 27-T-MEX: Papsmeat/D.T. Factor/Atomic Gods  
DOC 'N' EDDIES: Forest Murmurs/AWOL (reunion show)(Rock)  
MOULIN ROUGE CLUB: Last Generation Jazz Band  
CHEZ POLEE'S CAFE: Jay Cameron & Friends (Jazz)

Aug 28-CALAMITY JAYNES: Blue Oyster Cult (Rock)

4 QUEENS FRENCH QUARTER LOUNGE: ALAN GRANT'S MONDAY NITE JAZZ w/  
Calvin Keys  
COURTHOUSE: The Press (Jazz)

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