

THE GRAVITY OF THE SITUATION

Alfonso Cuarón has revolutionized movies with latest space thriller

GRAVITY: Directed by Alfonso Cuarón. Written by Alfonso Cuarón and Jonás Cuarón. Cinematography, Ben Richardson. Editing, Joe Swanberg. Starring Sandra Bullock, George Clooney and Ed Harris. Warner Bros. Pictures, 2013. PG-13. 91 minutes. ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Every once in a while, we are allowed the laughter of the gods. It is a pure laughter, sprung from joy rather than bitterness or irony. It is not schadenfreude. It has no victim. Rather, such laughter revels in creation the way a child revels in play — with pure mind and a freedom beyond the shackles of doubt. It is a thankful laughter, a barometer registering sheer gratitude.

Such is the laughter I experienced during the long opening scene of *Gravity*, the new movie by Mexican-born writer/director Alfonso Cuarón (*Children of Men*, *Y Tu Mamá También*). That scene, in which a magnificent planet Earth looms cosmically into view, is rendered with such convincing magnitude and glory by cinematographer Emmanuel Lubezki and his special effect team that I lost all powers of disbelief and simply started giggling. It is, quite literally, a breathtaking moment. Wow. Thanks for that, Mr. Cuarón. I lost myself for a while, and I liked it.

The rest of the movie ain't bad, either. *Gravity* is a simple story rendered in epic scales, like *The Iliad* or *The Old Man and the Sea*. Obviously, simple does not mean



pointless — unless you find the struggle of life and death in the cold universe a pointless affair. I'll admit, sometimes I do. But sitting through *Gravity* — in which two American astronauts (the exquisite pairing of George Clooney and Sandra Bullock) fight to survive a massive storm of satellite debris orbiting the earth at the speed of a bullet — I was riveted. I believed.

And, more than a few times during *Gravity*'s 91 excruciatingly suspenseful minutes, I yelped and flinched, making a move to dive behind my seat. I was about to be hit by satellite shrapnel! This sort of foolishness doesn't happen to me all that often; suspension of disbelief as a moviegoer is not one of my strengths, or weaknesses, if you will. And I am no huge fan of bow-bow special effects — they strike me too often as a crutch for gimpy narratives and shoddy

artistry — but if ever there was an argument for the latest innovations in digital CGI technology, *Gravity* is it. It is a revolutionary moment in the history of cinema.

This film is a space thriller, plain and simple. Beyond the sheer magnitude of its visual splendor, it is a rip-snorting adventure film. It also stars Clooney and Bullock, two smooth veterans working at the height of their significant acting talents. But is the story scientifically feasible, and are there holes in the plot? Can you accuse it of being sentimental and triumphalist? Who knows? Who cares? Hindsight happens when you catch your breath.

For now, trust me: Fork over the money for a seat in the local IMAX 3D theater, buckle down your expectations and let yourself be shot high as a kite into space. It's why we go to the movies. ■

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GRAVITY IN REALD 3D [CC,DV] (PG-13) ★
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IMAX: GRAVITY 3D [CC,DV] (PG-13) ★
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GRAVITY [CC,DV] (PG-13) ★
Fri. - Sat. (215 PM) 445 PM 730 PM

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DON JON [CC] (R)
Fri. - Sat. (1150 220) 450 720 1030

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Fri. - Sat. (1145 AM)

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Fri. - Sat. (1240 355) 650 1010

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Fri. - Sat. (1155 230) 505 755 1035

INSTRUCTIONS NOT INCLUDED [PG-13]
Fri. - Sat. (1230 335) 640 930

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GRAVITY IN REALD 3D [CC,DV] (PG-13) ★
Fri. - Sat. (115 PM) 700 PM 930 PM

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Fri. - Sat. (110 PM) 630 PM 900 PM

CLOUDY WITH A CHANCE 2 IN REALD 3D [CC,DV] (PG) ★
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Sat. (145 PM) 515 PM 845 PM

THE FAMILY [CC] (R)
Sat. (355 PM) 930 PM

ELYSIUM [CC,DV] (R)
Sat. (100 PM) 645 PM

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11:40, 3:10, 7:05, 10:10

CLOUDY WITH A CHANCE OF MEATBALLS 2 (3D) PG
SPECIAL EVENT PRICING: \$3.00
UPCHARGE ALL TICKETS
1:45, 7:20

CLOUDY WITH A CHANCE OF MEATBALLS 2 (DIG) PG
11:05, 4:30, 10:00

DESPICABLE ME 2 (DIG) PG
11:25, 1:55, 4:55, 7:50, 10:20

DON JON (DIG) R
12:15, 2:35, 5:05, 7:25, 9:45

THE FAMILY (DIG) R
12:05, 3:20, 7:35, 10:25

GRAVITY (3D) PG-13
SPECIAL EVENT PRICING: \$3.00
UPCHARGE ALL TICKETS
11:45, 2:15, 3:30, 4:45, 6:05, 7:15, 8:40, 9:50

GRAVITY (DIG) PG-13
1:00

INSIDIOUS CHAPTER 2 (DIG) PG-13
11:50, 2:25, 5:10, 7:55, 10:30

THE LEE DANIELS' BUTLER (DIG) PG-13
11:30, 3:25, 7:00, 10:05

MACHETE KILLS (DIG) R
11:00, 1:40, 4:25, 7:45, 10:30

PERCY JACKSON: SEA OF MONSTERS (3D) PG
SPECIAL EVENT PRICING: \$3.00
UPCHARGE ALL TICKETS
2:10, 7:30

PERCY JACKSON: SEA OF MONSTERS (DIG) PG
11:20, 4:50, 10:10

PLANES (DIG) PG
12:00, 2:30, 5:15, 7:40, 10:00

PRISONERS (DIG) R
12:10, 3:35, 7:00, 10:25

RIDDICK (DIG) R
12:25, 3:40, 7:30, 10:20

RUNNER RUNNER (DIG) R
11:15, 1:50, 4:20, 7:05, 9:30

RUSH (DIG) R
11:35, 3:15, 7:10, 10:15

WE'RE THE MILLERS (DIG) R
11:10, 2:00, 4:40, 7:25, 10:05

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2 GUNS R
12:10, 2:40, 5:05, 7:40, 10:15

GROWN UPS 2 PG-13
11:45, 2:10, 4:45, 7:10, 9:45

THE HEAT R
12:00, 2:35, 5:10, 7:45, 10:20

THE LONE RANGER PG-13
12:30, 3:40, 7:00, 10:05

MONSTERS UNIVERSITY G
11:50, 2:15, 4:40, 7:05, 9:40

MONSTERS UNIVERSITY (3D) G
SPECIAL EVENT PRICING: \$2.00
UPCHARGE ALL TICKETS
1:00, 3:30, 6:05, 8:35

RED 2 PG-13
12:25, 3:20, 7:25, 10:10

SMURFS 2 PG
11:55, 2:20, 4:55, 7:30, 9:50

SMURFS 2 (3D) PG
SPECIAL EVENT PRICING: \$2.00
UPCHARGE ALL TICKETS
1:05, 3:35, 6:10, 8:40

TURBO PG
12:15, 2:30, 4:50, 7:20, 9:35

THE WAY, WAY BACK PG-13
12:20, 2:45, 5:15, 7:35, 9:55

THE WOLVERINE PG-13
12:05, 3:15, 7:15 10:00

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CUTIE AND THE BOXER (R)
Fri-Weds 4:25, 6:30
Thurs 4:25

ENOUGH SAID (PG-13)
starring James Gandolfini
Fri-Sun 12:50, 3:00, 5:05, 7:15, 9:25
Mon-Thurs 5:05, 7:15, 9:25

THE GRANDMASTER (PG-13)
directed by Wong Kar Wai
Fri-Sun 1:30, 8:30
Mon-Weds 8:30

UO Cinema Studies Program presents
A MAN FOR ALL SEASONS (1966)
w/discussion by Robert K. Elder, author of
The Best Film You've Never Seen
free w/ Bijou Membership card or UO ID card
Thurs 7:00

BIJOU METRO 43 W. Broadway Tel: 541-686-2458
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Bijou Classics Series presents Stanley Kubrick's
EYES WIDE SHUT (1999) Fri-Weds 6:00

Plank Town Brewing Co. presents
DRINKING BUDDIES (R) 1:30, 6:00, 10:10

Eugene Jewish Film Festival presents
THE ATTACK (R) 2:00
sponsored by *Conscious Torah*
discussion following Sunday showing

+1 9:10

EUROPA REPORT (PG-13) 7:40

THE PATIENCE STONE (R) 3:45

ESCAPE FROM TOMORROW (NR) Fri 3:00
Sat-Thurs 3:00, 9:40

THE SPECTACULAR NOW (R) 8:00

BLUE JASMINE (PG-13) 4:30

STILL MINE (PG-13) 12:45, 5:20

POPULAIRE (R) 3:30

IN A WORLD... (R) 7:00

THE WORLD'S END (R) 1:00, 9:25

I WILL FOLLOW YOU INTO THE DARK Fri 9:30

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THE GREAT GATSBY 5:20

MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING 7:45

THE HANGOVER 3 9:45

MUD 5:20
*NO SHOW 10/10

THIS IS THE END 7:45

WHY LIVE WHEN YOU CAN RULE 9:45

THE KINGS OF SUMMER 9:45

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