

Mars Attacks! (1996), directed by Tim Burton

taken from: imdb.com
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Genre: Action / Comedy / Sci-Fi / Thriller


Tagline: Nice planet. We'll take it!

Plot Outline: The Earth is invaded by Martians with irresistible weapons and a cruel sense of humor.

Summary: President James Dale of the United States and his right-hand man, Jerry Ross, discover that an army of Martian UFOs are hovering around the Earth, and everyone has a different response. Some, like Texan alcohol dealer Art Land and slimy yesman Jason Black, just want to make a profit out of it. Others, such as TV hostess Nathalie Lake, Land's spiritualist wife Barbara, and the Southern-like Norris family, are excited, and some, like Dale's wife, Marsha, and daughter, Taffy, don't care. Richie Norris is extremely intelligent but is only respected by his insane grandmother, while his older brother Billy is favored for joining the army. General Decker doesn't trust the Martians and insist they fight, but General Casey is more optimistic. The Martians appear to come in peace but suddenly begin to use their super-powerful and technologically advanced weapons to wipe out the population and great structures. Soon, they attack Las Vegas, where the Norrises are living, where former heavyweight champion Byron Williams is visiting, where an obnoxious lawyer is gambling, and where Tom Jones is performing in concerts.

Cast overview, first billed only:

 Jack Nicholson President James Dale/Art Land

 Glenn Close First Lady Marsha Dale

 Annette Bening Barbara Land

Etc.

MPAA: Rated PG-13 for sci-fi fantasy violence and brief sexuality.

Runtime: 106 min

Country: USA

Language: English / French

User Rating: ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ 6.1/10 (36,720 votes)

IMDb user comments: 23 out of 33 people found the following comment useful:

- A guilty pleasure that grows on you, 30 January 2005

★ ★ ★ ★ ★
Author: Bob Stout from Houston, Texas, USA

When I first saw this in the theater with my granddaughter, we both found to be pretty lame and disappointing, but not without some wit to it. Since then, it's been on the cable channels multiple times, and I always find myself watching it again. I really hate to admit it, but this thing has really grown on me - so much so that I finally bought the DVD.

When I first saw it, I wouldn't have given it more than a 4 out of 10, but after repeated viewings, I now give it a 9. I can't really say why, and I certainly can't justify it in any rational sense, but it all just works for me. The wry wit, the blatant social and political commentary, I find it all immensely satisfying.

My confession's over, I'll do my penance. But I have to also say that my granddaughter's opinion of it has never wavered. She considers this movie as evidence of my incipient senility...

MD 28/05/2007