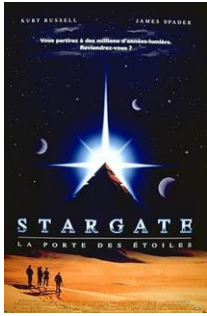


Short Review: “Stargate” (1994) by Dr. John L. Flynn



Stargate (1994). MGM, color, 121 min. Director: Roland Emmerich. Writers: Dean Devlin and Roland Emmerich. Producers: Devlin, Oliver Eberle, etc. Cast: Kurt Russell, James Spader, Viveca Lindfors, Alexis Cruz and Jaye Davidson.

Before “Independence Day,” Roland Emmerich and Dean Devlin tried their hand at a different kind of sci-fi film...by envisioning an ancient Egyptian structure as a gate to the stars. An Egyptologist (Spader) joins forces with a no-nonsense officer (Kurt Russell) and his crew of troopers to investigate what’s on the other side of the Stargate. They discover a desert world where Ra is worshipped much like in ancient Egypt. Of course, the local inhabitants are much impressed by the soldiers, and enlist the Earth warriors in a struggle for freedom from the Ra-like alien ruler (Davidson). The visual effects are quite good, and the plot moves along at a breakneck speed. The film inspired a TV series that was clearly inferior, but then, that isn’t too much of a surprise.

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