

Short Review: “Godzilla” (1998) by Dr. John L. Flynn



Godzilla (1998). TriStar Pictures, color, 140 min. Director: Roland Emmerich. Writer: Ted Elliott, Terry Rossio, etc. Producer: Dean Devlin. Cast: Matthew Broderick, Jean Reno, Maria Pitillo and Harry Shearer.

This big-budget remake of the Japanese film “Gojira” (“Godzilla,” 1954) or, if you prefer, “Gojira” (1984), by the team that brought you “Independence Day” is set in New York City. After the French conduct atomic bomb tests in the Pacific, something starts attacking ships. Soon, a scientist (Broderick) discovers that it is a large dinosaur-like creature which is now stalking New Yorkers. Soon, it is it or them. There is a predictability here that cannot be avoided and a corresponding lack of spontaneity. The special effects are great, but that’s it. Too bad Jean Reno did not have something worth doing. Our suggestion is that you rent the 1954 American-language version with Raymond Burr, and have some laughs with that one.

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