

## Short Review: “Deep Impact” (1998) by Dr. John L. Flynn



**Deep Impact** (1998). Paramount Pictures, color, 120 min. Director: Mimi Leder. Writers: Bruce Joel Rubin and Michael Tolkin. Producers: David Brown and Richard D. Zanuck. Cast: Robert Duvall, Téa Leoni, Elijah Wood, Morgan Freeman.

A teenage astronomer (Wood) discovers a comet the size of New York racing toward earth on a collision course, and an attractive reporter (Leoni) gets word that something is in the air.

Eventually, the President of the United States (Freeman) must come clean with the truth, and sends an aging astronaut (Duvall) and his crew to destroy the giant comet. If the comet hits, only 1,000,000 people can be saved in deep caves. The film borrows liberally from Arthur C.

Clarke’s novel Hammer of God and Kubrick’s “Dr. Strangelove.” The character development is better than “Armageddon,” and the hard choices about who should be saved and who wants to be generate some thought. This would make a great double-bill with George Pal’s “When Worlds Collide” (1951).

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