

## Short Review: “The Fifth Element” (1997) by Dr. John L. Flynn



**The Fifth Element** (1997). Columbia Pictures, France/USA, color, 126 min. Director: Luc Besson. Written by: Luc Besson. Produced by: Patrice Ledoux. Cast: Bruce Willis, Gary Oldman, Ian Holm, Milla Jovovich, and Chris Tucker

A few centuries in the future, the planet Earth is threatened by the arrival of the essence of Evil. Only the fifth element (Jovovich in a bikini made of bandages), a gift from a spacefaring race of our distant past with connections to the Egyptian pyramids and an ancient priesthood (Holm), can battle the epitome of Evil. She is helped by an air taxi driver (Willis), who also is a Special Forces commando with a nagging stage mother. The action is non-stop. Gary Oldman is a merchant of death quite willing to kill anything, anywhere, anytime for a price. Chris Tucker is a gender-bending disk jockey good for more than a few laughs. The bad guys are really bad; the good guys are a bit stiff, except for Willis, and Milla Jovovich looks hot in her skimpy Victoria Secret wear. This is as much a comedy as a science fiction-action thriller. The ugly polymorphous alien mercenaries are dumb as a box of rocks, strictly for comic relief and cannon fodder.

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