

Short Review: “Starship Troopers” (1997) by Dr. John L. Flynn



Starship Troopers (1997). TriStar Pictures, USA, color, 129 min. Director: Paul Verhoeven.

Written by: Robert A. Heinlein (novel) and Edward Neumeier. Produced by: Jon Davison and Alan Marshall. Cast: Casper Van Dien, Dina Meyer, Denise Richards, Jake Busey, Clancy Brown, and Michael Ironsides

In a futuristic, fascist police state, high school graduates are given the choice to serve in the military and earn the right to vote, or not. Johnny Rico (Van Dien), the scion of a wealthy family, decides to take a chance on the military option, while his beautiful but brainless girl friend (Richards) enrolls as a space cadet. Typecasting? Soon, the buglike extraterrestrials from Klendathu nuke Rico’s home town in Brazil, and the war with the bugs is on. But instead of using heavy artillery or rocket launchers against the naturally armored Klendathuites, Verhoeven opted for small caliber assault rifles and nuclear hand grenades (count to three, throw it, and kiss your ass goodbye in real life). Somehow, these humans win. This film bears no resemblance to Heinlein’s book, except for the title, but does have a unisex shower sequence that will get the hormones racing of most viewers under the age of thirteen.

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