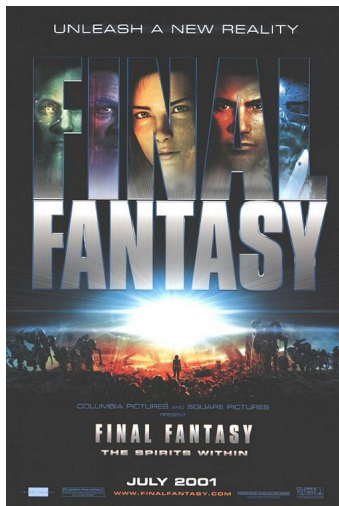


Short Review: “Final Fantasy” (2001) by Dr. John L. Flynn



Final Fantasy: The Spirits Within (2001), U.S./Japan, Columbia and Sony, color, 106 min. Directors: Hironobu Sakaguchi and Motonori Sakakibara. Writers: Hironubu Sakaguchi, Al Reinert, etc. Cast: Ming-Na, Alec Baldwin, James Woods and Steve Buscemi.

Based on a popular video game, this animated feature was the first of its kind to attempt an all-digital, computer-generated workspace, and succeeded with a decent storyline.

The oppressed humans in 2065 are making an attack on the extraterrestrial phantoms who have invaded Earth. The charming Dr. Aki Ross (Ming-Na), a researcher creating a new type of weapon against the phantoms, joins up with a gung-ho group led by Captain Edwards (Baldwin) with Neal Fleming (Buscemi) and others. They race to succeed before General Hein (James Woods) uses the Zeus cannon which may endanger the Earth. The animated characters look very close to real people. You will either love this effect, or hate it, but you will see more of it.

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