

Moore's performance earns SEAL of approval

By GERRY BELTZ
Film Critic

"Intense" doesn't even begin to cover a description of "G.I. Jane."

Lt. Jordan O'Neil (Demi Moore) had been performing duties for Navy Intelligence, but stirs up the hornet's nest when she is recruited as a "test case" to train for the Navy SEALs, a highly covert unit trained in all sorts of weapons use, combat tactics, intelligence-gathering and so forth.

Yeah: the bad-asses. These are the people who do the jobs no one else can do, wants to do, or even knows about.

However, the training for the SEALs consists of some of the most difficult and merciless activities placed on this planet (next to finding a parking place on this campus), but O'Neil is determined to succeed.

Unfortunately, O'Neil has more than just tough training as a roadblock to do before joining this elite group. Master Chief John Urgayle (Viggo Mortensen, "Crimson Tide," "The Portrait of a Lady") gives no quarter in the training to any of the recruits and is relentless in his pursuit of trying to break their spirits. Most of the military higher-ups are counting on her not succeeding, and even O'Neil's sponsor - Senator Lillian DeHaven (Anne Bancroft) - is hoping she won't succeed.

All of this, combined with a unit of soldiers

The Facts

Title: "G.I. Jane"
Stars: Demi Moore, Viggo Mortensen, Anne Bancroft
Director: Ridley Scott
Rating: R (violence, language, nudity, subject matter)
Grade: A-
Five Words: Military drama delivers fantastic results

who don't want O'Neil around, makes her life really begin to suck. But, while man after man "rings out" in failure, O'Neil continues to succeed, refusing to accept the extra allowances given to her simply because of her gender. She knows the only way she can truly succeed is if she is treated as equal to the rest of her fellow officers.

Still, the political machine continues to operate, moving to have Lt. O'Neil removed from the training.

Performances throughout the film are excellent. Moore continues to take on a variety of roles, refusing to slow down from the bad reception of recent slackers "Striptease" and "The Scarlet Letter." Her constant frustration with gender bias, in addition to the grueling physical and emotional training of the SEAL

Please see JANE on 22



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Under the relentless command of Master Chief John Urgayle (Viggo Mortensen, left), Navy Intelligence officer Lt. Jordan O'Neil (Demi Moore, center) sets a historic precedent when she is recruited to be the first woman allowed to train as a Navy SEAL.

'Event Horizon' raises hell inside a spaceship

By CLIFF HICKS
Film Critic

"Event Horizon" makes no apologies about being a derivative film, but it is a good derivative film.

The concept sounds vaguely familiar - a ship goes missing for seven years and returns without explanation. A small crew is sent out to search the ship and find out what happened. (Why is it in these kind of things they always send a small group, not a whole bunch of people? Oh well, device of the medium, I suppose.)

Led by Captain Miller (Laurence Fishburne), the crew is composed of eight people, including the doctor who designed the ship, played by Sam Neill. And that is almost the entire cast of the film, for a very good reason.

An easy misconception to get before entering the film is that this is a science-fiction film with horror overtones. In all actuality, "Event Horizon" is a horror film with science-fiction overtones. Stripped down, this is a haunted-house film put into a haunted space ship.

Good horror films rely on good acting and tension, and "Event Horizon" does well in both cases. Sam Neill twists and distorts his doctor's psyche with the skill of a master, and Fishburne

The Facts

Title: "Event Horizon"
Stars: Laurence Fishburne, Sam Neill, Jack Noseworthy
Director: Paul Anderson
Rating: R (violence, language, brief nudity)
Grade: B+
Five Words: Haunted house story in space

plays the stoic captain to a tee. Other standouts of the cast include Richard T. Jones, who plays Cooper, the lighthearted rescue technician (who provides the comic relief for the film at well-needed moments) and Joely Richardson, who plays Starck, the ship's executive officer.

"Event Horizon" borrows heavily from other films, which doesn't hold it down, just detracts from its originality. The minute the gravity drive is shown on screen, impressions of "Hellraiser" start running through the mind.

The sets leading up to and composing the gravity drive are designed with a lot of moving pieces, detailed metal and spiky designs. It evokes memories of the "Hellraiser" puzzle-box. Also, the occasional bits of dialogue seem

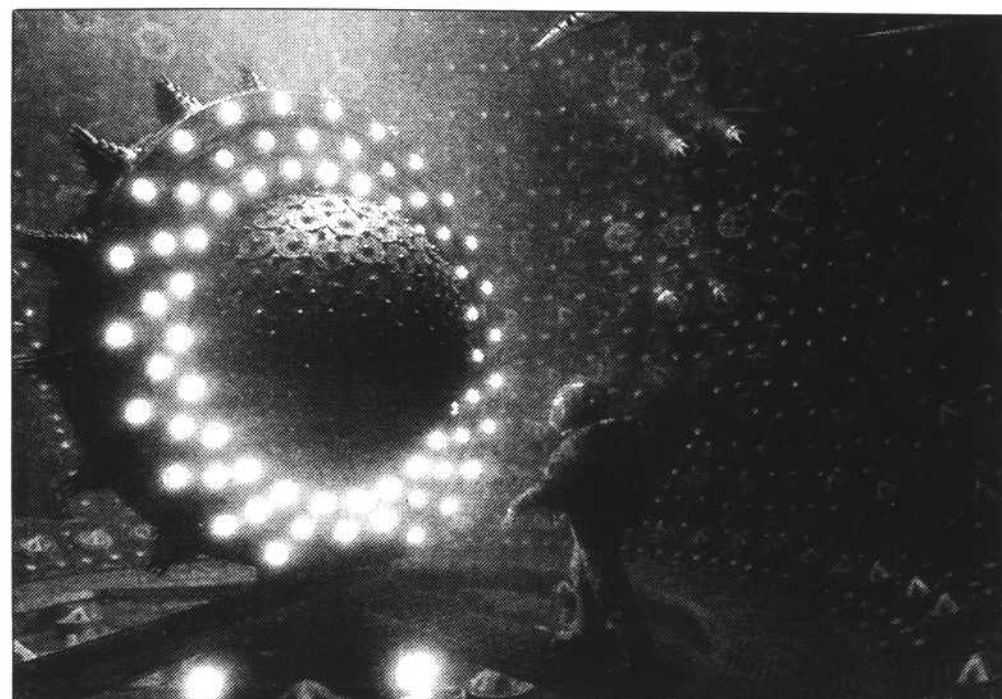


PHOTO COURTESY OF PARAMOUNT PICTURES

JUSTIN (JACK NOSEWORTHY) approaches the third seal in the second containment of the Event Horizon in the science fiction thriller "Event Horizon".

like they were ripped right from the pages of Clive Barker.

A lot of the film also plays on common fears - claustrophobia, fear of the dark, fire, drowning, suffocation ... the only one this film really misses is vermin, and that's okay because it's

space, and let's hope cockroaches can't deal with it.

Traces of "Alien" also litter the film, mainly because both share the kind of dark lighting and closed spaces that make horror films effective.

Please see SPACE on 22

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