

G.I. Joe: The Rise of Cobra (and the Fall of my I.Q.)

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A Review by
Andrew Henry, Instructor
Tom Sims, Executive Director
Cape May Film Society
609-884-6700
capemayfilm@hotmail.com
www.capemayfilm.org

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Henry: This week, we're reviewing is GI Joe. As a child of the 80s I have been forced to watch my favorite cartoons being turned into mediocre Hollywood movies for the past several years (Transformers, Speed Racer). Armed with that knowledge, I marched into battle against G.I. Joe: The Rise of Cobra.

Sims: Nicely put.

Henry: Yeah... Thanks. Now, I wanted to hate, HATE this movie. I had such low expectations I actually went to see this at 11:00 AM. on a Tuesday. But because I had set the bar so low, I can honestly say it is not as bad as I thought it was going to be. Directed by Stephen Sommers of The Mummy film series, G.I. Joe has the same energy and style of Sommers' previous work, but none of the story. The action sequences did not disappoint, although with the amount of computer effects used, it could have been re-titled CGI Joe. So what did Sundance Sims think?

Sims: I had a GI Joe once. In the second grade. It was stolen from the classroom. True story.

Henry: Stolen?

Sims: I looked all over for it. Stolen. In my estimation, by a certain Mr. Dirk Pettigrew.

Henry: Uh, Sims?

Sims: I think once you're named Dirk, it's all over. Might as well just tattoo the word "Hoodlum" in big goth letters between your shoulder blades and call it a day.

Henry: You didn't watch the movie, did you?

Sims: (after a slightly awkward pause) No. Not at all.

Henry: (ignoring response and moving forward) The only stand out in GI Joe, the movie we were supposed to review this week, is Joseph Gordon-Levitt, taking on the campy, yet fun role of the Doctor who ultimately becomes leader of the Cobra. When he is on screen, I felt like I was watching my favorite 80s cartoon again.

Sims: GI Joe wasn't a cartoon—he was a soldier. If you want to see a truly great soldier movie, check out "Winter of 1914," a beautifully-produced short film featuring great sound engineering from Cape May Film Academy instructor and graduate Collin Pritchard. It was featured in the 2007 Film Festival and is available through our office. It tells the true story of a one-day truce on Christmas Day. Join the more than 82,000 people who watched the trailer on YouTube (just search by the title).

Henry: Fair enough... I'd like to check that out. Well, in summary, GI Joe: Rise of the Cobra is flawed... but ultimately fun. Would I pay to see this again – no. But now I know where to set my expectations when ThunderCats the movie is released. And as they say, knowing is half the battle.

"Movie Spin," is sponsored by the Cape May Film Society (www.capemayfilm.org). Andrew Henry is a filmmaker and graduate of the Tisch School of the Arts at NYU
Tom Sims is a filmmaker and Executive Director of the Cape May Film Society. You can email Andrew or Tom at capemayfilm@hotmail.com.