

Galaxy Invader

Galaxy Invader (aka *The Galaxy Invader*) is a 1985 direct-to-video sci-fi film directed and co-written by Baltimore filmmaker Don Dohler. The film is about an alien who is pursued by hillbillies after his spaceship crash-lands.^[1] The film plays off of the success of films such as Creature from the Black Lagoon and adds a twist with its drunken redneck cast. Its low production value and sometimes golden (mostly very poor) acting makes for a cult classic exploitation film with a comedic take on redneck culture and their view on "furriners".^[2] The cast is made of entirely non-professional actors, mainly friends and family of Dohler. Most fans of "Galaxy Invader" recognize its flaws, but love the movie for its quirky and sometimes hilarious moments. It is featured in Cinematic Titanic: The Complete Collection on disk 5.^[3] Segments of the film can also be viewed in the Film Ventures release of the Spanish film *Pod People* in 1990, however not under legal license from the author. "Pod People" was featured in a segment of *Mystery Science Theater 3000* and the unlicensed footage from "Galaxy Invader" was used.

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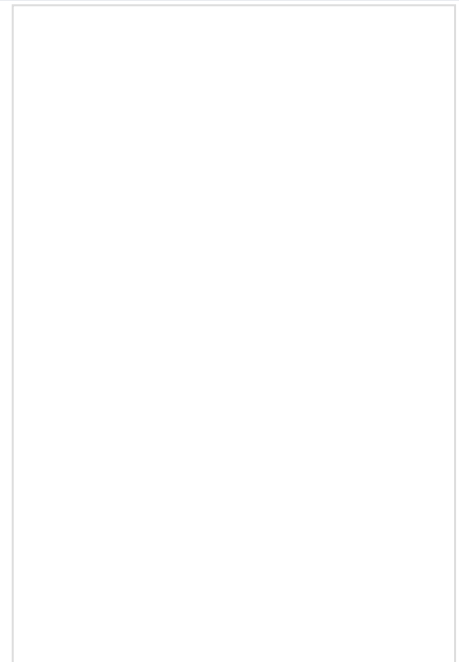
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Plot

When a glowing object, (which seems to be a meteor) careens toward the Earth, a young student, David Harmon (Greg Dohler), who sees it, is narrowly missed as it falls into the forest ahead of him. He calls his old high school teacher, Dr. William Tracy (Dick Dyszel), to tell him about this potential UFO landing. A couple of hours

later, a young couple hears a noise in their basement and go down to

The Galaxy Invader



Film poster

Directed by	Don Dohler
Produced by	Don Dohler
Written by	Don Dohler Anne Frith (additional scenes) David W. Donoho (additional scenes)
Starring	Richard Ruxton George Stover
Music by	Norman Noplock
Cinematography	Paul Loeschke
Edited by	Don Dohler
Production company	Moviecraft Entertainment
Distributed by	Moviecraft Entertainment
Release date	April 1985

VHS cover of "Galaxy Invader"

see what it is. As they slowly descend into the basement, they are terrified and wrestled to the ground by a green monster known as the 'Galaxy Invader'.^[4] Joe Montague(Richard Ruxton), is angered by his daughter, Carol Montague (Faye Tilles), at breakfast and chases her through the woods with a gun. After encountering the alien and finding the power source to its weapon, the space ball, Frank Custer(Don Leifert), advises Joe to hunt the alien for a reward. The alien is hunted by a gang of locals led by Joe Montague intent on cashing in on the creature. Joe captures the alien and ties it up in his garage. Dr. William Tracy and David Harmon break into the garage and set the alien free. As they flee the garage into the woods, Frank shoots Dr. Tracy. The alien returns and shoots Frank, then Joe shoots the alien and takes back the space gun. Frank's wife comes looking for him at Joe's house and following his history of domestic violence, Joe tries to rape her. In the struggle, Joe shoots Frank's wife using the space gun. Joe's family conspire with Michael Smith (Cliff Lambert), Carol's Boyfriend, to set the alien free and return it home. When they steal the weapons from Joe's sleeping hands, he suddenly wakes and pursues the group with a shotgun. Holding the group and gunpoint, when all hope is lost, the alien appears and attacks Joe. Joe kills the alien using the space gun, but it gives enough time for Michael Smith to get the jump on Joe. A fight ensues and ends with Joe's wife, Ethel Montague(Ann Firth), knocking him off a cliff.

Running time	72 min
Country	United States
Language	English
Budget	\$4,000 - \$42,000

Cast

- Richard Ruxton as Joe Montague
- Faye Tilles as Carol Montague
- George Stover as J.J. Montague
- Greg Dohler as David Harmon
- Ann Firth as Ethel Montague
- Don Leifert as Frank Custer
- Dick Dyszel as Dr. William Tracy
- Theresa Harold as Vickie Johnson
- Glenn Barnes as the alien
- Cliff Lambert as Michael Smith
- Jerry Schuerholz as McGregor
- Paul Wilson as Thompson
- David W. Donoho as Giddings (credited as David Donoho)
- Doug Moran as Turner

BTS lighting of the alien capture scene

Production

Galaxy Invader did not have the usual format that Don Dohler employed in many of his B straight-to-VHS films. With a short timeline and limited budget, more emphasis was placed on characters than sci-fi special effects. The green, web-footed alien monster in the film has a superficial resemblance to the titular entity from *Creature from the Black Lagoon*.^[5] The rubber suit and mask was also unfavorably compared to other film monsters.^[6]

The film's cast, however, was part of Don Dohler's stable of friends and includes Donald Leifert and George Stover both featured in Dohler's earlier films, *The Alien Factor*, *Fiend* and *Nightbeast*. Richard Ruxton, another of the film's stars, would go on to star in Dohler's next film, *Blood Massacre*. Also appearing in a starring role is Dohler's son, Greg Dohler, who plays David Harmon.

Galaxy Invader was shot entirely in and around Baltimore, Maryland, Dohler's hometown. In the introduction, an orchestrated background synthesizer soundtrack was used. In a 10 year period, Dohler shot 4 movies in his hometown on what b-movie connoisseur Joe Bob Briggs termed "25 cent budgets". Every one of Dohler's films had a budget which ranged from as low as \$4,000 to as high as \$42,000. While "Galaxy Invader" doesn't have an official budget anywhere online, Dohler's website claims it falls somewhere between the stated range. Dohler is known for his low budgets, improvised special effects, and for using a cast of completely non-famous actors.^[7]

Footage from this film was used without permission in the introductory and ending credits for the Film Ventures release of the Spanish film Pod People in 1990, which in turn was featured as an episode of Mystery Science Theater 3000 the following year.^[8]

The body thrown off a cliff at the end of the movie is made of PVC piping an example of Dohler's comedic special effects.^[9]

Reception

In 2009, VideoHound's Golden Movie Retriever gave the movie 1 bone, which in their terms is defined as, "Poor use of camera, film, sets, script, actors, and studio vehicles."^[10]

In a 2011 article in The New York Times dealing with 1980s B films, "This pre-video-age late-night cable TV favorite was created (almost singlehandedly) by a fanzine editor who managed to shape his micro-budget into a special effects extravaganza. The late Don Dohler would go on to direct many straight-to-VHS films of the '80s, including 'Galaxy Invader' and 'Blood Massacre'."^[11]

In 2011, RiffTrax, consisting of MST3K alumni Michael J Nelson, Bill Corbett and Kevin Murphy mocked *Galaxy Invader*.^[12]

In 2012, Bleeding Skull! calls it, "Uneventful, but semi-entertaining." "While the somber mood and deeper themes bode well for "Galaxy Invader", the vacant second half drowns everything out."^[13]

In 2013, RedLetterMedia called *Galaxy Invader* "one of our favorite bad movies," praising the film's characters and comparing it favorably to Dohler's earlier film Nightbeast.^[14]

The film received an audience score of 1/5 stars on Fandango.com.^[15]

References

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External links

- *The Galaxy Invader* (<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0089185/>) on *IMDb*
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