AOC Movie Review – Star Wars: The Force Awakens (Episode VII)

PG-13

2015 · Fantasy/Science fiction film · 2h 15m

8.3/10 IMDb   92% Rotten Tomatoes   81% Metacritic

Thirty years after the defeat of the Galactic Empire, the galaxy faces a new threat from the evil Kylo Ren (Adam Driver) and the First Order. When a defector named Finn crash-lands on a desert planet, he meets Rey (Daisy Ridley), a tough scavenger who encounters a droid that contains part of a top-secret map. Together, the young duo joins forces with Han Solo (Harrison Ford) to make sure the Resistance receives the intelligence concerning the whereabouts of Luke Skywalker (Mark Hamill), the last of the Jedi Knights.

Release date: December 18, 2015 (USA)

Director: J.J. Abrams

It has been awhile since the prequels and even longer since the original releases. There is a lot of nostalgia to be seen. To be honest, it wouldn't be surprising to hear about standing ovations of historical characters, just like in the theater, but in living rooms since the DVD and BluRay release. The lightsaber duels are far more animated and better choreographed than previous films.

- They tracked the Millennium Falcon, but how? Radar? The film didn't really cover this. As an antique, it probably had a unique enough radar cross section to identify quickly, but could it be done that quickly? Could they have used networked radars to cover larger ground?
- Who knew a Death Star could get bigger? With bigger Death Stars comes great power sources. The biggest battery built so far is 400 megawatts. To put that in perspective, our sun outputs 386 billion megawatts produced by NUCLEAR FUSION. How did they harness the energy of a sun and aim the energy? How did they divert a plasma stream to target multiple planets?
- Who taught the Stormtroopers how to shoot? Seriously, they are far more accurate in this film. http://www.kappit.com/img/pics/201512_1154_bfbgc_sm.jpg
- If a lightsaber duel happens in a forest and a tree falls, do all Jedi hear it?
- How could you use Electronic Protect to stop a bolt of spectrum energy in mid-air? In the movie, they use the Force, but could this really be possible? To date, we have used electromagnetically induced transparency to only stop light for an hour in a cryogenic crystal.
- There are a lot of tactical communications from ground units to space fighters. Information is important, even in space conquest. Electronic Attack has been doctrine in previous films with radios being jammed prior to ground invasions. However, during this latest film, the concept appears absent.

The biggest disappointment is how Moore's law seems too not matter in Star Wars realm, nor our ability to mimic its technology. For the record, Episode 1 occurred 32 BBY (Before the Battle of Yavin, or approximately 368 24-hour days), Episode 4 would be 0 (Death Star blew up, in the Battle of Yavin), and Episode 7 was 34 ABY (After the Battle of Yavin). Over the course of 66 years, Moore's law should have applied more, pun intended. Star Wars droid programs had improved, but the weapon systems seemed to not evolve other than the occasional lightsaber modification or building a bigger death star. Now on the filming side, with respect to almost 40 years (1977 to 2015), special effects, picture quality, and budgets have most definitely improved.

1977+ Trilogy
Budget: $11-40M each
Droids: People inside robots costumes...
Film: 35mm

1999+ Trilogy
Budget: $115M each
Droids: Actual robots...
Film: 35mm, digital and a lot of CGI

2015+ Trilogy
Budget: $306 Million
Droids: BB8 toy for sale! http://www.howbb8works.com/
Film: Back to 35mm

With all of our direct energy weapon research, can we make lightsabers yet? Could you create a hyper-light speed canon? What about energy shields? Can the physics support the science fiction? If you did create one, would it be healthy to be around? After 40 years, we have laser weapons, but not to this scale. Anyways, the movie is pretty entertaining and full of action and things to reminiscence about.

Pikes Peak Raven Roost
Reviewers: Jordan Scott