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'Aliens in the Attic' review

Harmless fun for kids, not much for adults

By Geoff Berkshire

Metromix

July 31, 2009

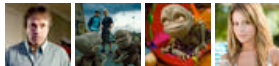
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Critic's Rating: ★★★★★



Robert Hoffman (Credit: 20th Century Fox)

Photos:



Aliens in the Attic

Running time: 86 minutes

Rated: PG

Cast:

- Carter Jenkins - Tom
- Austin Butler - Jake
- Ashley Tisdale - Bethany
- Kevin Nealon - Stuart Pearson
- Robert Hoffman - Ricky Dillman

[See full cast](#)

Director: John Schultz

Genre: Adventure, Comedy, Science Fiction

Official Movie Web Site: <http://www.aliensintheatticmovie.com/>

Movie Trailer:

Overall User Rating: ★★★★★ (217 ratings)

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Tom (Carter Jenkins) is a C- student afraid to show how smart he really is. But when he's forced into a summer vacation with his parents (Kevin Nealon, Gillian Vigman), sisters (Ashley Tisdale, Ashley Boettcher), cousins (Austin Butler, Henri Young, Regan Young), uncle (Andy Richter) and grandma (Doris Roberts) to "the most boring area in the whole country," he'll have to use his brains to defend the family from seemingly hostile pint-sized alien invaders (whose voices include Thomas Haden Church and Josh Peck).

The buzz: From John Schultz, the director of "Like Mike" and "Drive Me Crazy," comes a family film that hopes to succeed on a (kinda) original concept, rather than a pre-sold idea. But it wasn't screened in advance for critics, which is not usually a good sign...

The verdict: Lightweight entertainment for kids with a thankfully low level of obnoxiousness. The aliens never pose much of a threat (they're too busy wisecracking lines like "We come in pieces!"), and the special effects used to create them aren't that special, but the young cast carries the action with breezy charm. The adult actors are just here for the paychecks (Roberts gets what's probably her only chance at a martial arts fight sequence, but otherwise deserves more than denture jokes), and a better movie would have a few more clever set pieces along the lines of the standout anti-gravity sequence. As summer filler "Aliens in the Attic" gets the job done, it's what bargain matinees at air conditioned theaters were made for.

Did you know? The movie originally had the more menacing title "They Came From Upstairs." That was demoted to tagline status when someone decided a movie for kids about aliens in an attic should probably be called "Aliens in the Attic."

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CC Ogden 6 Theatre

1227 E. Ogden Ave. - Naperville, IL 60563

Monday, October 19

12:00 | 4:10 | 8:20

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340 Main Street - Park Forest, IL 60466

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5:30

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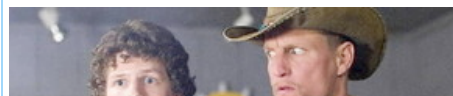
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pheobe from north ridge - July 30, 2009 at 6:17 PM

thats because it is so darn great i asume they did not need a critics review...what do they know anyway ..i'm a kid and i saw an early screening an...

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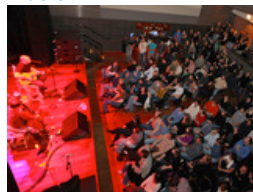
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