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Guardians of the Galaxy Rocks Box Office Grossing \$94M

Posted by: Laura Shank in At The Movies, In the News 08/05/2014 1 Comment

The much anticipated *Guardians of the Galaxy* smashed into theaters this weekend grossing \$94 million with the biggest opening for an August film since *The Bourne Ultimatum* in 2007.

While skeptics wondered if *Guardians* could live up to the standard of previous Marvel movies like *The Avengers*, any doubts were silenced as fans poured into theaters. Marvel has proven yet again that it can deliver a hit – even with lesser known characters.

The movie follows Peter Quill (**Chris Pratt**), a loveable outlaw as he stumbles through space. His motley crew is comprised of well known faces such as **Zoe Saldana** (Gamora), **Vin Diesel** (voice of Groot), and **Bradley Cooper** (voice of Rocket). And while **Dave Bautista** may not be a household name – yet – he delivers an outstanding performance as the complex but powerful Drax.

Director **James Gunn** does a wonderful job of drawing a strong storyline throughout a huge cast of characters. Fans who aren't familiar with the tale of the guardians will appreciate how well-written they are and enjoy their rich back stories. It's easy to get attached to each member of the crew as you get to know them and their struggles.

While most of the acting is strong, and **Lee Pace** practically steals the show as the unstoppable villain Ronan, I found myself disappointed in Pratt's acting. I had high expectations for the *Lego Movie* star and mostly enjoyed his delivery as goofy but street smart Peter Quill. Unfortunately, there were a couple times where I was drawn out of the film due to his stiff acting. Hopefully he will have relaxed into his role for the sequel, set to release in summer of 2017.

My other issue was costuming. Many of the characters looked amazing, including Peter Quill and Ronan, but some outfits looked cheap. You'd think a multi-million dollar movie would be able to give even small characters outstanding outfits. It's worth the time and money to stop the audience from wondering about the use of fabrics during the middle of the movie.



Ophelia Lovibond as Carina models one of my least favorite costumes

Overall, *Guardians of the Galaxy* keeps audiences entertained all 122 minutes. The 80's soundtrack of Quill's mix tapes are a wonderful contrast against stunning visuals of space. If you're not going to see it for the story you could get by on just soundtrack and graphics alone, especially in the 3-D version which is well worth the money.

If you're a Marvel fan – and even if you're not – I'd say go see it as soon as possible. This sci-fi action adventure kicks ass as possibly the best Marvel movie so far.

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