

Film Title and Release Date: *The Explorers* (1985)

Length: 110 minutes

Genre: Science Fiction

The Explorers is an 80's movie about three friends who build a spaceship and use it to meet aliens. It all starts when Ben Cranel, the main character, has a weird, reoccurring dream of himself flying over what looks like a hard drive. He sees it every single night and every night he draws a portion of the hard drive. Eventually he gives the completed thing to his best friend, Wolfgang, and asks him to build it for him. While at school later that day, he meets Darrel Woods who helps him out with the school bullies. Darrel knocks the wind out of one of them and runs as fast as he can to divert the attention of the others. At this point Wolfgang has finished setting up the circuitry for the project, so he calls Ben to come help him. Ben brings Darrel and they go to see Wolfgang's computer in the hopes that something would have come out of his work. To their complete and utter surprise, a glowing ball appears, hovering in midair. With commands from the computer, the ball can move along the x, y, and z axes. And through solid objects, as well as become invisible. Wolfgang realized the more powerful the battery in the computer the more of a variety of abilities the orb can have. They realized that if given enough power, the orb could grow big enough for a person to sit in it. They gave it power, it grew to hold the three of them and they were able to go up into space.

"How did you find this movie?"

I was looking through the options on Kanopy and found this movie which my dad had loved as a kid so I decided to give it a watch and I really liked it.

"Did the plot keep you interested?"

Yes It kept me very interested it was super cool to see an eighties movie so heavily bent on sci-fi but not in a way that was hard to watch

"Was the pace too fast, too slow or just right?"

The movie was a bit slow in the beginning but otherwise really good because it kept up with the suspense of the rest of the movie.

"What age level would this film be appropriate for?"

This would be appropriate for just about all ages its more or less a kids movie and there are some scenes that all kids would crack up at.

Rating:

I would give this Film A 5 Star rating. It was really fun to watch and would be cool to watch with a younger sibling or child, it has a simple plot so anyone could follow it and its from the eighties what's not to like?

Reviewer Name and Grade: Maya L., 8th Grade

Date Reviewed: March 31, 2021

Explorers is a movie about 3 boys named Ethan, Wolfgang and Darren. When Ethan starts to have dreams about flying over a circuit board, he tells his ideas to his friend. Wolfgang is very good at inventing things and designs a program that ends up being more powerful than they thought. They end up making a spacecraft and along with their other friend Daren they decide to call it Thunder Road. When they fly it they go around town, they even watch a drive in Science Fiction movie from their spacecraft. People in the drive-in actually end up thinking that they are part of the film. They go up into space and they discover an entirely new alien species. They become quite friendly with the aliens as they discover that they are also children. The aliens talk through old movie lines because they obviously can't speak english. The aliens had actually been putting dreams into peoples' heads for a very long time as they wanted to contact other civilisations. Although they are very different, they can bond together. The alien children's father was mad because they had stolen his spaceship in order to let the boys in. At the end of the movie the alien children don't want their new friends to leave and ask their father if they can stay longer, but then he says that the boys have to go back to Earth. As a gift, they give the boys something that allowed them to control their dreams so that they could all hang out in their dreams together.

How did you find the film on Kanopy(by title search, subject search,casual browsing etc.)?

I found this film on Kanopy while looking for Family movies, It was also science fiction which I knew would most likely keep me interested for the entire length of the movie as it is my favorite genre.

Did the plot keep you interested?

The plot kept me interested because it was unique and interesting and was something that I haven't really seen before.

Was the pace of the film, too fast, too slow or just right?

The pace of the film was just right; it didn't go too fast to the point where I would be losing track of what had happened in the movie. It also didn't go too slow to the point where it was so boring that I was getting distracted.

What grade level(s) is this film appropriate for?

The grade levels that this film is appropriate for is all grades, It is very family friendly with almost nothing that would concern parents; however, as it was filmed in the 80s there was brief alcohol usage but nothing extreme.

Rating: 3 stars: It was okay; I had hoped for better

I would rate this film a three, it was ok and I liked it but although I found it to be a very unique film, quite a few of the events were predictable which made it slightly boring at times, but overall it was good. The special effects were actually quite good especially considering it was created in 1985. The plot was also good, entertaining and the characters kept me invested. I would recommend this movie if you want to watch a nice Science Fiction throwback that everyone in the family can enjoy.