

FILM REVIEW: STEVEN SPIELBERG'S E.T THE EXTRA TERRESTRIAL

BY RACHEL PENNEY

First released on June 11, 1982, Steven Spielberg's classic science-fiction family film warmed the hearts of people who watched it, and it became a film that would be remembered for years after.

E.T was a blockbuster hit, even surpassing *Star Wars* as the highest grossing film of all time. Until *Jurassic Park* came along eleven years after (a film also directed and produced by Spielberg) in 1983, *E.T* held this record proudly.

The film centers around the friendship that forms between Elliott, a lonely little boy, and *E.T*, an alien from outer space who was left behind by his family. Elliott and *E.T* soon find themselves connected in more ways than one as Elliott, along with his older brother and younger sister, try to help *E.T* return home.

One step behind the pair is a group of scientists, who want to find *E.T* and experiment on him. Over time, Elliott begins to act in sync with *E.T*, feeling the same emotions as him. In the end, as *E.T* is dying, he and Elliott separate so that they are no longer in sync with each other. However this seems to heal *E.T*, and an epic bicycle chase takes place as Elliott and his friends race to get *E.T* back to his spaceship.

In the end they succeed, and Elliott and *E.T* share a tear jerking goodbye.

The film uses some fantastic camera techniques, such as the iconic silhouetted shot of Elliott and *E.T* on the bike in front of the moon. I looked into some of the other techniques used below.

In the beginning of the film, we see a scene of a forest at night time, with a strange aircraft landing. The gangplank lowers, and a mysterious figure walks up, silhouetted by the lights of the spaceship. The misty nature of this scene prompts the audience to pay close attention to what is happening on their screens. Since we can't make out what these creatures really look like, this engages the audience as they try to figure out what they look like.

We also see two long fingers pulling a branch out of the way to watch what is happening. Another camera technique, we get the suspense that something is watching these creatures - but don't know whether this is a good or a bad thing.

We are also shown shots of the inside of the spacecraft. The aliens seem to be growing plants and vegetation. This suggests to us that these creatures are peaceful and non violent.

Techniques like these make the film what it is, and leave a huge impact on the people that watch this film. I remember as a child being glued to the screen whenever the film was being shown, and it gave me something to talk about with my uncle, who loved the film as much as I did.

A cult classic, *E.T* is definitely worth the watch.

