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**Subject:** Movie Review: CONTACT

Author: Douglas Horne/ARRB Composed: 09:47 AM TodaySubject: Movie Review: CONTACTCategory: I saw the sneak preview last Saturday night. The movie starts this Friday, July 11th. It is almost 2.5 hours long. The opening visuals are fantastic--don't arrive late.This was a great intellectual and emotional experience. CONTACT is the best science fiction film to come out since 2001: A Space Odyssey, and is probably more fun to watch.Carl Sagan, Ann Druyan, and Robert Zemeckis have managed to make a film which is a combination of a running philosophical debate, an action film, and a love story, all rolled into one, and make it work. There is plenty of humor at the appropriate moments, and best of all, the film never gets slow, or becomes boring, as overly serious films (which this is not) often do.There are only minor plot changes from the story in the novel, and all of them improve the story. This film is absolutely 100% true to the spirit of the book, which is a testament to the 16 years Carl Sagan and Ann Druyan spent trying to get this story of theirs made into a film.There is plenty of "sense of wonder " in this one for the most ardent SF and astronomy buffs, plenty of action, and loads of intellectual content for those who want to see something intellectually stimulating. Most of all, its uplifting and mind-blowing, and you leave the theatre in a great state of mind.Ann Druyan and Carl Sagan (and actress Jody Foster) deserve credit for creating a female lead protagonist (SETI astronomer) who is 1000% believable and convincing. GO SEE IT!

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