

<Jurassic World Dominion> Film Review

Though it has been a few years since this film was released, this summer was my first time watching <Jurassic World Dominion>, the continued series of the original film by Steven Spielberg, <Jurassic Park>. I was not particularly interested in the Jurassic World series, which was overly emphasized on action and thriller, yet I had not much choice when my friends decided to put it up on screen. The film had quite a bit of negative reviews on the internet, so I was worried it might be bad, but it ended up being pretty entertaining.

There were a few characteristics that I wished had been solved, or changed.

1. Challenging theme

The story unarguably starts with a fairly difficult topic - What responsibility do the humans have of creatures they brought back from extinction?

The film questions how much responsibility humans have for these difficult-to-control wild animals, while showing the various damages and waste of resources caused by the dinosaurs. At the same time, it portrays the issue of animal abuse in illegal markets, illustrating how coexistence creates multiple challenges to both species. While the story is quite realistic, this problem is too complex to be resolved within a single film.

These problems are not solvable in the real world either, so trying to resolve an ethical and philosophical dilemma in a fantasy movie can be quite challenging. Although the movie concludes with the idea that "we must coexist," the world itself doesn't seem to have changed much from the beginning to the end. This led to a dissatisfying ending for me.

2. One-Dimensional Villains and Depiction of Death

The villains in the *Jurassic World* series are often very one-dimensional and, traditionally, die a horrible death by the very dinosaurs they experimented on and abused. While I understand the use of one-dimensional villains, I don't think it's always necessary to show the villain's "punishment" in detail.

In this movie, there's a scene specifically shot showing a villain being eaten by dinosaurs after a train stops. However, just showing the stopping of the train would have been enough to imply what happens next. The additional scene doesn't add anything to the story.

As someone who dislikes overly simplistic villains and punishments, I didn't find this to be the best storyline. I imagine this aspect could have been divisive among the audience.

3. Deus Ex Machina

"Deus Ex Machina" is a plot device where unlikely coincidences are used by the director or writer to help the story progress smoothly. It is a commonly used technique, but as I was watching the film, there were times where I hoped it had been used less often.

Stories without Deus Ex Machina are often very well-crafted, with only events that are inevitable, making the audience anxious about potential mishaps. Especially in action thrillers, the tension would be heightened if we didn't have the certainty that someone would come to the rescue at every dangerous moment.

The reason I wasn't too worried about the protagonist even when a dinosaur was in front of them was that I subconsciously felt someone would coincidentally show up at the right time to save them. For me, the most thrilling moment was when the supporting male character was in danger. There was no one around to help, and no dinosaurs to intervene, making it tense. I think the movie could have used a little less Deus Ex Machina.

However, despite a few dissatisfactions, overall I did enjoy this film more than expected. It felt as if the film used a lot of symbolism in their cinematography. I had a few favorite scenes from the film.

The first scene is of countless flaming locusts falling onto the dinosaurs. It reminded me of the day of the dinosaurs' extinction. The scene of the locusts falling like meteors felt like the judgment of nature, with the message that despite being revived through the power of science, the forces of nature are ultimately impossible to defy.

The second is the logo of the Jurassic series. The side profile of a roaring Tyrannosaurus Rex skeleton inside a circle has been the symbol of the Jurassic series for decades. While watching Dominion, I felt like this might be the final Jurassic movie because they used the logo in one of the scenes. Near the end of the film, there is a scene where a Tyrannosaurus Rex appears from the left side of a circular fountain that is empty in the middle. The similarity to the logo was so striking that even someone like me, who had never paid much attention to the logo, was quite excited to see it. The fact that this fountain structure was never clearly shown in the film until this moment suggests that the scene was not a coincidence.

Lastly, there is the contradiction of the black market. The black market in the movie depicts the selfish side of humans who exploit dinosaurs, such as dealing in illegal trades or selling dinosaur meat. However, what stood out most was the people consuming dinosaur fights as entertainment. This element was most striking because, ultimately, it was the Jurassic World series itself that turned dinosaur fights into a spectacle. There is a contradiction within the film itself, but it also poses a question to everyone who watched or made the Jurassic series.

While this film has an IMDB rating of 5.6/10, this film surprised me quite a bit. Maybe there is something to learn in every film.