

MOVIES

'Lost in Space' needs someone at the helm

TICKETS PLEASE



JOHN MONAGHAN

I spent way too much of my young life parked in front of the television set watching reruns of 'Lost in Space'...

So imagine the pain, the pain of seeing it botched so badly on the big screen. The inevitable 'Lost in Space' movie, which opens Friday...

them is Don West, the fighter pilot who grumbles about hauling the family across the galaxy. Enter the evil Dr. Smith, a resistance-level saboteur...

So where does the movie go wrong? By not having a firm grasp on the material. By now, rules have been established for turning old TV shows into viable movies...

When it was hokey to begin with, like 'The Brady Bunch,' it's best to not make things too serious. Betsy Thomas, director of

the first 'Brady' movie, had a fondness for the material and knew how to poke fun at it while still being serious.

There is no doubt that the forces behind 'Lost in Space' (namely writer Akiva Goldsman and director Stephen Hopkins) genuinely like the show...

Here you've got serious scientific musings about the nature of time travel. In the next breath you've got Mimi Rogers delivering lines to the kids like, 'stop it you two, or we're going to turn this ship right around'...

Of course the everything-including-the-kitchen sink approach to 'Lost in Space' can't help but be disappointing...



Family adventure: Jack Johnson (left to right), William Hurt, Mimi Rogers and Lacey Chabert star in 'Lost in Space'.

free-fall from a ghost space ship and attach to the Jupiter 2. And there's a nifty ergonics tube that freezes the family in flight...

The whole project ultimately goes the direction of the old series. What starts out as something genuinely cool panders more and more to the kiddie audience by the end. Still, when

the electronic version of the old 'Lost in Space' theme song rolls over the closing credits, I know I'll be back for the sequel.

John Monaghan welcomes your calls and comments. To leave John a voice mail message, call (734) 953-2047 on a touch-tone phone, mailbox 1866.

GUIDE TO THE MOVIES

Table with columns for cinema names and movie listings. Includes titles like 'Wedding Singer', 'The Newton Boys', 'The Godfather Part II', etc.

SCREEN SCENE

A sampling of what's playing at alternative movie theaters across metro Detroit as reviewed by John Monaghan. Detroit Film Theatre - Detroit Institute of Arts, 6200 Woodward, Detroit. Call (313) 833-2323...

COMING ATTRACTIONS

'SARNEY'S GREAT ADVENTURE' - Fun-filled musical adventure stars America's popular and lovable dinosaur. 'LOST IN SPACE' - Based on the popular TV series, the space traveling Robinson family...

COMING ATTRACTIONS

'THE OBJECT OF MY AFFECTION' - Romantic comedy about a woman who leases a room in her apartment to a guy. 'THE BOY' - Action thriller about a quartet of freelance gun-for-hire who may have gotten involved in one job too many...



Great adventure: The search for a magical egg lands Barney and his friends Marcella (Kyla Pratt), Abby (Diana Rice) and Cody (Trevor Morgan), in the middle of the Apple Valley parade.

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