

Super 8

David McReynolds

Anthony Giacchino asked if I wanted to see this, the new big budget film produced by Spielberg and directed by J. J. Abrams. David Leyden arranged to get tickets in advance so we could get in and off we went. (Anthony's brother, Michael Giacchino, had written the film's music).

I'd say four stars out of five, but looking at the critics' quick responses I see they are all over the place (Rotten Tomatoes gives it 82% but there are some very biting comments to be found - frankly this is not a film you should see if you feel critics should be consulted).

Friends, this is June, and Super 8 is a film meant to be seen in June, in air conditioned theaters, when we want to munch popcorn and escape back to our early youth. Set in 1979, before cell phones, when computers were still scarce on the ground, and sparklers and firecrackers (of blessed memory) were available to the youth. Set in Ohio, that most American of states. A small crew of youth have set out to make a home movie. In the course of shooting their film, a most dreadful train wreck occurs in their little town. (Yes, those were the days when small towns were still connected by trains).

Soon the community finds itself under mysterious seige, as things go missing, lights dim, and explosions occur. Sure enough, the army is called in. This is a science fiction film, and one of those which (as those who saw *The Day the Earth Stood Still* will remember) pits a foolish army against a benevolent alien.

There is an enormous amount of sound and fury, but I give nothing essential away if I report that all of the youth survive the violence that engulfs their small town.

No it is not a political film (except that the military is cast as the heavy). It is an escape film which frankly I found myself totally caught up in - so much so that I totally forgot to pay attention to the musical score of Anthony's brother.

Go, enjoy. I'd say four stars. Get some popcorn to munch during the tenses moments.