

Avatar an incredible, mind-blowing experience

Freelance writers Murray Townsend and Jennifer Smith, who have very different tastes in film, review a movie currently playing. This time it was Jennifer's turn to 'Pick a Flick' and she chose the animation *Avatar*.

Plot: Director James Cameron takes us to a spectacular new world beyond our imagination, where a reluctant hero embarks on a journey of redemption, discovery and love as he leads a heroic battle to save a civilization.

What Jennifer thinks

You're going to hear this a lot, but there's really no other way to say it. *Avatar* is a mind-blowing and thoroughly entertaining immersion into another world, unlike anything you have ever seen before.

Much has been said about the groundbreaking 3-D technology created for the film. But what makes it so

astonishing is that the effects are utterly seamless — so much so that after a while you are barely even conscious of them. The real breakthrough comes when the Na'vi and the creatures that inhabit their world become just as real to us as the humans.

Yes, the story is overly earnest at times, and the dialogue could really have used a few shots of Cameron's trademark humour. But in the end, *Avatar* has everything you could want from a movie plus a few things you never even imagined possible. Even with the script's flaws, I'll give it five stars.

What Murray thinks

I dragged myself kicking and screaming to see *Avatar*. A lot of hype about a bunch of blue beings on

another planet in the future. I don't like *Star Wars* or *Star Trek*, though I do have a soft spot for the *Smurfs*.

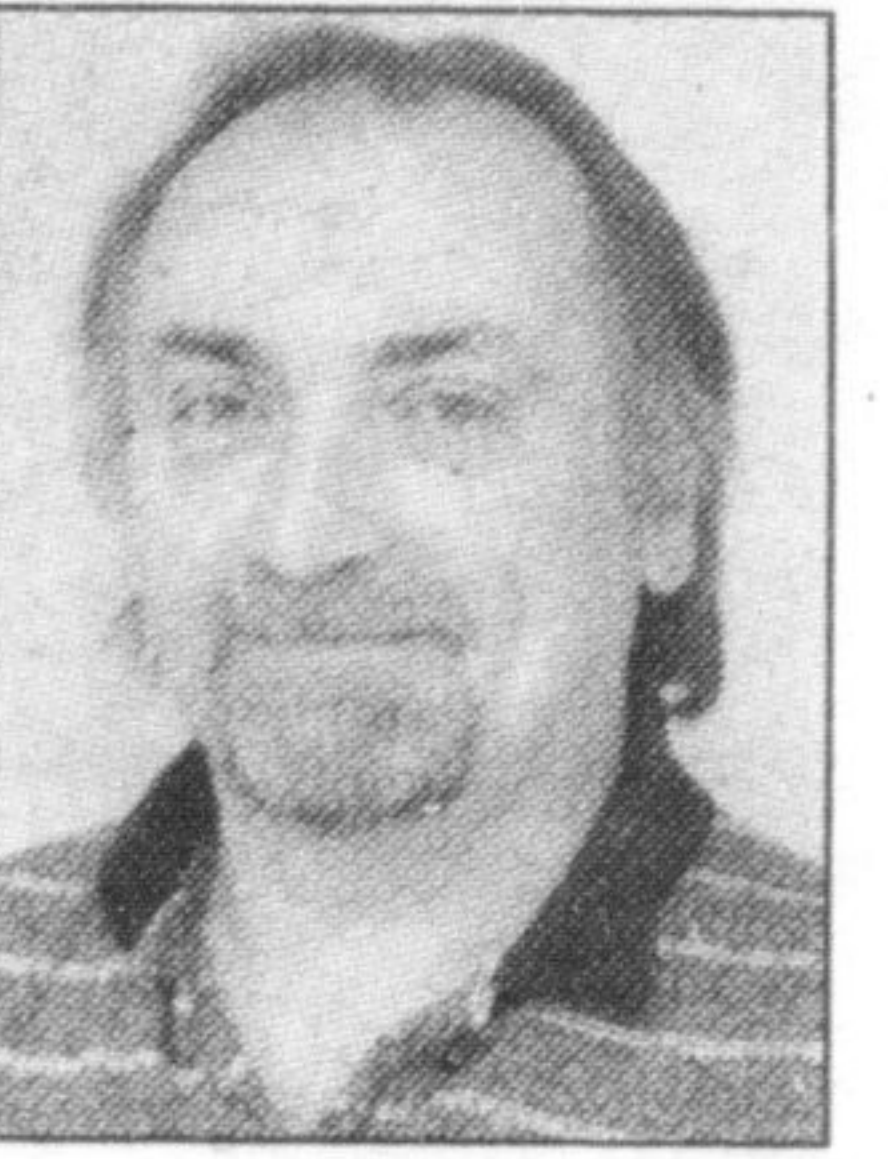
I spent the first part grumpily aware that it was going to be two hours and 41 minutes long, trying to pick out things wrong with it. Unsuccessful at that, I was determined to find an empty storyline after eliminating the special effects. No luck there, either.

Then I just gave in. What I had left was one of the most amazing movie experiences I've ever had. I've never seen anything like it, and I hadn't even bothered going to the 3-D version. I'd go so far as to say that during some parts I was awestruck.

That's not to say I'm going to convert to special effects-type movies, but for this movie at this time I'll give it five big stars.



Jennifer Smith



Murray Townsend



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