

MONTHLY MOVIES

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Krullscale: movie-rating system

By T. Rob Brown

Back in the 1980s, most of Hollywood seemed to be bent on creating the next “Star Wars.” “Krull” was one such attempt.

Sure, you remember that cult classic film, don’t you? Well, not too many modern filmgoers do. Aside from it being one of the earliest appearances of screen legend Liam Neeson, there’s not a lot to get excited about in this film. It’s a mash-up of the fantasy and sci-fi action genres. It’s not a garbage film but neither does it excel in any particular area.

I like to refer to “Krull” as “The standard of mediocrity by which all other movies shall be judged,” as I called it on my website about the Krull Scale. As my good friend Jesse White of Missouri once said, “When I get done watching ‘Krull,’ I feel as though my time was not wasted but neither was it well spent.”

Jesse and a group of our movie aficionado friends developed Jesse’s initial idea, which he called the Krull Scale. As that standard of mediocrity, “Krull” is zero on the Krull Scale. Traditional film rankings go to four or five stars and leave a lot to be desired in terms of distinguishing the difference between the great and amazing.

The Krull Scale goes up to a positive 10 for great and amazing movies and down to negative 10 for poor films. With “Krull” resting at the solid zero spot.

“Wait a minute!” I hear you respond. “I loved ‘Krull.’ Why would you put it at zero?”

This is the beauty of the Krull Scale: it's subjective.

It doesn't matter if you loved or hated "Krull." What matters is that you now have a specific reference point. If one person loves a movie more than "Krull," then it's likely someone else will also like it more than "Krull," regardless of their personal thoughts on the standard.

Let's take a look at some examples ...

I would place "Star Wars: Episode V: The Empire Strikes Back" (1980) at a solid 9 on the Krull Scale. "Casablanca" (1942) would be in the 10 spot. And poor films such as "Superman IV: The Quest for Peace" (1987) would maybe get a -5. I'd certainly rather watch "Krull" than the worst Superman film ever made. As much as I hold the original "Highlander" (1986) in high regard (Krull Scale 8), its pathetic sequel "Highlander II: The Quickening" (1991, theatrical version) would be about a -2 on the Krull Scale. The director's cut of the latter, while improved, still remains at just a -1.

Now that you have a working knowledge of the Krull Scale, how would you rate your favorite and most hated films of all time? Give it a try.

"The show must go on."