



Film Review DISCLOSURE DAY

By Duncan Forbes



Disclosure Day is the new film from Steven Spielberg, his first directorial output since 2022's *The Fabelmans*. It stars Emily Blunt and Josh O'Connor as strangers with a linked past, who must combat a sinister government official, played by Colin Firth, in order to reveal the truth about alien visitors to Earth.

Spielberg is one of the greatest living directors, and has a solid history of sci-fi classics like *Close Encounters of the Third Kind* and *E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial*. *Disclosure Day*, unfortunately, doesn't compare to those cinematic touchstones, and is more on par with less remarkable, but still solid films like his 2005 adaptation of *The War of the Worlds*.

Two things Steven Spielberg has always excelled at is evoking wonder and stirring emotion, and *Disclosure Day* does both of these things. It is chock full of stunning imagery (much of it sadly revealed in the trailer), heart-pounding action, and intimate character moments that tug at the heart strings. He is aided in this by frequent collaborators like cinematographer Janusz Kamiński and composer John Williams, who gives us another fantastic score.

The cast are largely solid, with Emily Blunt delivering an incredible performance as a meteorologist suddenly possessed of strange abilities,



and Colin Firth doing surprisingly well as the ruthless C.E.O. doing everything in his power to stop the film's heroes. Eve Hewson and Colman Domingo are great in their supporting roles, and Wyatt Russell makes a big impression despite his limited screentime. The bulk of the action is carried by Josh O'Connor, and while his performance isn't quite on par with what he delivered in last year's *Wake Up Dead Man*, he is engaging and believable enough to keep things together.

There are moments where he comes across as hammy, or

clichéd, and that is one of *Disclosure Day's* biggest faults. Some of the dialogue is cringe-inducing in its cheesiness, and there are several illogical and immersion-breaking moments that threaten to take you out of the action.

Thankfully, Spielberg's sci-fi parable has interesting things to say about faith and human connection, and while its ambiguous ending is likely to be divisive, it feels earned, and makes the uneven journey worth it. While it's not among the master auteur's best, *Disclosure Day* is well worth a watch.