

REVIEW – COSMIC VOYAGE

Screenings at the LG IMAX THEATRE SYDNEY

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As a great fan of the IMAX experience for a few years now, I regularly enjoy this enormous eight-story screen that wraps around the viewer so completely that it provides a total visual and audio experience.

COSMIC VOYAGE takes the viewer on a voyage of discovery to the super-clusters of galaxies in outer space, to observe the computer generated explosion of the " Big Bang," the collision of galaxies and the development of our solar system. The enormous starfields in all their brightness and colour, includes tens of thousands of stars and is breath-taking.

Morgan Freeman's superb narration explains the birth of the cosmos and the nature of black holes and brings into focus the worlds beyond our sight. With cutting-edge computer animation (and CAVE technology), superclusters of galaxies fill the enormous IMAX screen, swirling gas clouds cluster together from the pull of gravitational forces and become galaxies of mingling stars, gases and particles.

The extraordinary and heart-stopping "cosmic zoom" takes the viewer out from the surface of the Earth through planets and galaxies to the edge of the universe, and then back down into the sub-nuclear world in a guided tour across some 42 orders of magnitude.

The audience is taken into an observation of the smaller universe of the microscopic world inside strands of DNA, electrons swirling inside a carbon atom and viewing quarks – the smallest known building blocks of matter. This microscopic journey is fascinating. From the previous macroscopic position sitting outside the known universe into this microscopic world of electrons, protons neutrons and quarks IMAX enthralls, entertains and educates us superbly about our known complete worlds.

Again and again actual footage and CGI footage invites us to gaze at massive stars exploding into a violent death, a comet hurtling towards Earth, galaxies colliding, and a supernova violently and spectacularly erupting.

Inside the IMAX theatre, the four sides of the enormous screen frame is beyond the audience's peripheral vision, and I am totally absorbed by the visual and aural experience. COSMIC VOYAGE's director Bayley Silleck supervises the live action sequences from Greece, Italy, Holland, Hawaii and Utah and combines this with revolutionary high-resolution computer imagery continually transporting us for the full 35 minutes of this film.

No wonder IMAX was awarded the sole Oscar® for Scientific and Technical Achievement by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences in 1997. IMAX has created one of the world's best film capture and projection systems that fascinates and educates at the same time.

COSMIC VOYAGE is compulsory viewing for all children and adults. It gives us the detail and perspective that no other educational experience can possibly provide. Enjoy this fascinating ride!