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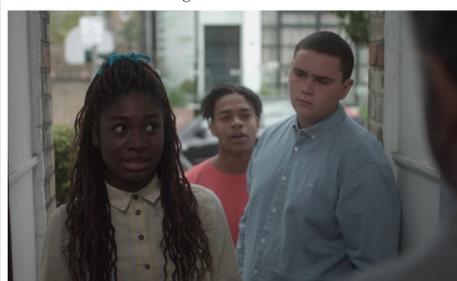
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Film

7 Hours on Earth review - schoolkids have fun with aliens-meet-Shakespeare comedy

★★★★☆

This clever take on A Midsummer Night's Dream, made by staff and pupils at a London secondary school, sets up some extraterrestrial matchmaking



The course of true love never did run smooth ... Rufat Awolope, Byron Easmon (centre) and Gus Flind-Henry in 7 Hours on Earth

Attack the Block meets A Midsummer Night's Dream in this good-natured, charming and energetic comedy made by staff and pupils at Graveney secondary school in Tooting, London. It's directed by English and film studies teacher Pat Sharpe, who coaxes some fantastic performances from her students, most in front of the camera for the first time; even the teatime telly silliness of some scenes feels endearing.



Watch the trailer for 7 Hours on Earth

It's set in the fictional school of Midsummer High where half a dozen aliens crash land in the headmaster's office seven hours before the opening night of the school play. Rufat Awolope (a sixth former at the time of filming) plays sensible headgirl Helen who can't decide if she likes swotty Dan (Gus Flind-Henry). Her shallow best friend Charlotte (Ramona Marquez) is seeing Louis (Byron Easmon), who falls for Helen. Scriptwriter Steve Smith wittily adapts the suitor-swapping of Shakespeare's play to fickle teenagers, with the aliens acting as matchmakers. Trapped in human bodies, these infinitely superior beings take pity on the illogical hormonal teenagers and attempt to fix their romantic dramas.

As the extraterrestrials attempt to make sense of their new surroundings the script has some fun. What is this concept of school, one of them asks. Another replies: "It's where the young of the species are forcibly contained to receive low-grade data that the elders believe will make them functionally effective."

The film is a seriously impressive achievement by the inspiring teachers and kids at Graveney. Certainly, it's more professionally made than a fair few low-budget films I've seen, though I did wonder whether the English department was consulted about using number "7" in the title, rather than spelling it out as "seven".

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newbyinfrance 7 Oct 2020 14:52
So, where can we see it? The trailer is beguiling.

reddonkeyham → newbyinfrance 7 Oct 2020 15:06
Release Date: October 9th 2020. Rent or buy from Amazon, Google Play and iTunes

kalm 7 Oct 2020 15:01
Facebook says it's on demand from the 9th, but no details https://www.facebook.com/7HoursOnEarth/

NickCharles 7 Oct 2020 15:28
'I did wonder whether the English department was consulted about using number "7" in the title, rather than spelling it out as "seven".
Absolutely classic Bradshaw, getting distracted by a completely extraneous detail. Always remember his podcast review of Bad Neighbours 2 where he went on at length about his feelings regarding a pile of shoes at a party.

Theocapa → NickCharles 7 Oct 2020 16:03
It's literally written by a different person

BlancheX → NickCharles 7 Oct 2020 19:48
Even though Bradshaw did not write this review, I totally agree with your assessment of his nit-pickiness.

NickCharles → Theocapa 8 Oct 2020 15:29
Agh, sorry - it read so much like Bradshaw I didn't even check.

Jamiew4 7 Oct 2020 17:00
this looks worth a watch

paukernoo 7 Oct 2020 23:23
Stop
Reviewing
Stuff
Without
Telling
Us
How
To
See
It
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WithoutPurpose → paukernoo 8 Oct 2020 19:34
G
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E

JudasPeckerwood → WithoutPurpose 9 Oct 2020 4:28
Hey, not everyone who reads the Graun online has internet access.

WithoutPurpose 12 Oct 2020 19:17
I rented this last week and started to watch it with my 13 year old but she got bored and wandered off. The kids are great but the whole thing is marred by the Himatayan levels of over-acting on the part of the adults.

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