

'2012' leaves me with a feeling of disappointment



Nick Shuler

2012 is a Frankenstein of a movie. Comprised of segments stolen from the buried corpses of disaster movie past, the lumbering titan saunters down the Hollywood alleyway, destruction the only thing on its mind. Its Dr. Frankenstein, Roland Emmerich, is the mastermind behind the monstrosity we see on the screen. Every part of the creature was brought to life by Mr. Emmerich, and as awe-inspiring as this creature is,

it is three times as terrifying. I, personally, did not like 2012. I thought it was uninspired and repetitive. Fortunately for Mr. Emmerich, I am not the general viewing public. It's plain to see that any rational, thinking person would tune in to see major foundations of society blown up by supervolcanoes or fall into gigantic cracks in the Earth's crust larger than the city of Las Vegas, but it goes against everything I believe about movies. The disaster isn't supposed to be the story; the story is supposed to be what happens before or after the disaster.

The disaster is just supposed to be the conflict. And if your movie is just going to be about a disaster, why even include characters like the stock dysfunctional family with a new daddy that daddy No. 1 is jealous of? The public doesn't care about these people, they just want to see the crap get blown out of New York, or Washington D.C., or Paris, or Las Vegas. They want to see debris thrown into the faces of bystanders as the monument located in whichever city they chose crumbles to the ground in explosive wonder. But I guess you've been

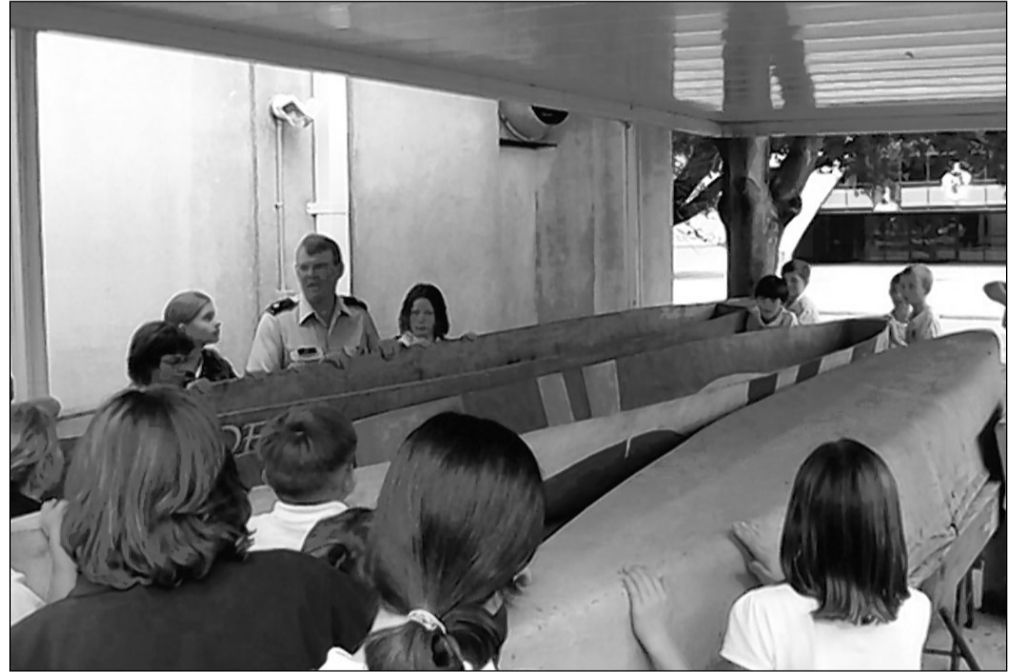
getting closer to that realization, Mr. Emmerich. Because unlike your previous attempts at destroying the Earth, like Independence Day, or The Day After Tomorrow, or even Godzilla, 2012 takes the characters and basically puts them on autopilot, developing them with textbook precision so quickly that it's almost as if they ignored the first rule of storytelling, "show, don't tell." Bam! Dad wakes up in a messy apartment, a stack of books falls to the ground by the door. Deadbeat failed writer, or any Stephen King protagonist. Bam! Son storms past dad into dad's

car, daughter is handed to dad, mom says, "She still wets the bed and is embarrassed." That's three characters right there, and you probably feel like you've known them your whole life. The action is excellent, though. Surpassing even Michael Bay classics like Pearl Harbor and Bad Boys II, 2012 exploded into my face like a ride at a Universal Studios theme park. I never dreamed I'd see the day that the Earth would be blown up so excessively while I watched, head in hands. It was beautiful, except the numerous parts where it wasn't, and I

felt like screaming in boredom. Overall, 2012 is either an explosive and awesome look at the apocalypse, or a terrible attempt to create a movie that would artfully display the end of the world while not sacrificing character development and good acting. It's obvious I didn't get what I wanted, but I'm sure that my taste varies as much as anyone else's.

(Nick Shuler is a senior at Wando High School, and has written countless reviews for the school's newspaper, the Tribal Tribune, for which he is an editor.)

University School of the Lowcountry learns about civil engineering



PHOTOS PROVIDED
On Wednesday, Nov. 20, University School of the Lowcountry students learned more about civil engineering and the materials labs at The Citadel with activities devised by Professor Jeff Davis. Professor Davis spoke with students about the various branches of civil engineering. His presentation focused on his work on the connection between the layout of towns and the health of their citizens (something USL students are familiar with in their walkability studies of the Old Village and newer subdivisions in Mount Pleasant). After exploring the engineering labs with Professor Davis, Professor Tim Mays explained more about structural engineering. The afternoon concluded with a comprehensive and insightful tour of The Citadel by two cadets.

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ABOUT BILL
Bill is prolific at reading and writing the Holy Tongue. He uses this gift to study not only the Hebrew text, but Hebraic roots of Christianity as well. This research has been rewarded with a keen insight into Biblical Judaism and its relationship to Christianity. Bill's desire is to unlock the deep secrets of the Word of God and to teach them, along with our Hebraic roots, to believers in Messiah.
Through Shoreshim Ministries, Bill and his family have launched an effort to reintroduce Christians to the Jewish Y'shua and to educate believers in the Hebraic roots of their faith. As a benefit of this information, disciples of the Messiah can more accurately interpret end-time events and better discern our role in these last days.
Bill is featured speaker in venues throughout the country and has appeared with notable teachers such as Hal Lindsay, J. R. Church, Jack Van Impe, John Hagee, Grant Jeffrey, Perry Stone, Tim La Haye, Chuck Missler, the late Yacov Rambsel and the late Zola Levitt. He has also made several appearances on a variety of television broadcasts seen on TBN, Daystar, Inspiration, Sky Angel, WHT, and TCT.
For more information on Bill's Ministry please visit this website: www.BillCloud.org
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