

Beings from Another Dimension have invaded your world. You can't see them... but they can see you.

Your only hope is Buckaroo Banzai.

Peter Weller as Buckaroo
Ellen Barkin as Penny Priddy
Jeff Goldblum as New Jersey
Christopher Lloyd as The Alien Lectroid
Lewis Smith as Perfect Tommy
John Lithgow as Dr. Lizardo

...and

THE ADVENTURES OF BUCKAROO BANZAI
ACROSS THE 8TH DIMENSION!

SHERWOOD PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS A SIDNEY BECKERMAN PRODUCTION THE ADVENTURES OF BUCKAROO BANZAI Starring PETER WELLER JOHN LITHGOW ELLEN BARKIN Also starring JEFF GOLDBLUM CHRISTOPHER LLOYD Executive Producer SIDNEY BECKERMAN Produced by NEIL CANTON AND W. D. RICHTER Written by EARL MAC RAUCH Directed by W. D. RICHTER Now in Paperback from POCKET BOOKS



THE ADVENTURES OF BUCKAROO BANZAI ACROSS THE 8TH DIMENSION (1984)

BD / CERT: 12 / DIRECTOR: W.D. RICHTER / SCREENPLAY: EARL MAC RAUCH / STARRING: PETER WELLER, JOHN LITHGOW, ELLEN BARKIN, JEFF GOLDBLUM, CHRISTOPHER LLOYD / RELEASE DATE: OUT NOW

Dr Buckaroo Banzai (Peter Weller) is a neuro-surgeon, a physicist, a test pilot and a rock star. He can pretty much excel at anything he puts his mind to. While driving his test car – a pickup truck, no less – past the speed of sound, Banzai manages to reach the 8th Dimension whilst literally driving through a mountain of rocks. On his return, he finds that he has brought something

back with him.

Hearing of his success, Dr Emilio Lizardo (John Lithgow) breaks out of his prison for the criminally insane and decides to kidnap an old colleague who tried to help him do something similar in 1938, only for Lizardo to be taken over by a being from that other dimension called Lord John Whorfin who now wants to go back home. These beings are called Red Lectroids and arrived

on Earth in 1938, using the broadcast of War of the Worlds as their cover.

The aliens now hide in plain sight, pretending to be humans, but Banzai can see them thanks to an electric shock given to him by the visiting Black Lectroids, who are here to help stop the Reds. With the help of his band (among other roles they undertake) the Hong Kong Cavaliers, Banzai saves the day and his new squeeze, Penny Priddy (Ellen Barkin), who just so happens to be the long lost twin sister of his dead wife. With us so far? Good, because that isn't even the half of it.

The word 'cult' is overused when it comes to films that come out of left field, and this one certainly does that. You'll honestly finish watching the film wondering what the hell you just saw. Fortunately, the extras include interviews with some of the cast as well as the director who, both in 1984 and present day, admit that they have no real idea what is going on either! They have an idea how to categorise it into a specific genre and there was clearly a plan to turn this into

a franchise, with the credits promising another adventure against the World Crime League which never materialised. It's as if someone took the ideas for at least three different films and stuck them into a blender to see what came out the other side. Richter even to this day states that the film couldn't be made without the assistance of the Banzai Corporation, as if Buckaroo himself were a real person. It all ends up as a bit of a mess.

It's so difficult to score this review. Is it entertaining? That's down to the individual to decide, but we can definitely say it's an interesting and strange experience. And after all, isn't that what cult movies are: enigmas?

Extras: Audio commentary / New interviews with Peter Weller and John Lithgow / Three featurettes / Alternative opening and closing / Deleted scenes / Trailers / Gallery / Collector's booklet

JD GILLAM