



Of prosciutto-fists & popcorn

Paying tribute to the jumbled mess that is Starship Troopers

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2016

Starship Troopers is the somewhat cult 1997 Blockbuster sci-fi film by Paul Verhoeven, with a budget of a 100000000 dollars it hardly made any profit and received mixed reviews, with its 3 sequels being release straight-to-dvd.

In recent years there has been a resurgence of interest in the film, partly due to its "blank-slatedness" making it ripe for recontextualization but also due to the simple fact that it "aged well". The film is a "prosciutto-fisted" (classy hamfistedness?) satire, blurring the lines between 90210 body-cult and WWII propaganda imagery.

In working with this film we decided to pay tribute to the (in our eyes) great film that it is, while at the same time "wanting to know more". Our sources range from Rotten Tomatoes to JSTOR. This leaves us with what we call "The dichotomy of popcorn and academia".

Instead of the classical format of a talk we chose the apparently comical format of a slideshow accompanied by a drinking game. The idea is to explore a set of five themes and condense them into the rules of the game, leaving out enough space for interpretation. The rules were handed out before the screening, with the chosen themes of: propaganda, racism/xenophobia, gender, fascism and tropes.

This approach should provide a sort of "guided" or even "enhanced" "viewing experience" and direct attention to the structures of the film, some being obvious while others more latent.

Now for a quick run-down of the rules:

Would you like to know more?

What is the role of mass-media in a fascist utopia?

Highlighting the illusion of agency.

- ☐ Whenever you are given the "choice" of "Would you like to know more?" - 2 sips

It's just a bug

How is the "alien other" represented in the dispositive of the human war-machinery?

- ☐ Whenever the Aliens are demonized - 1 sip
- ☐ Whenever the Aliens are underestimated - 1 sip

No damsels in distress?

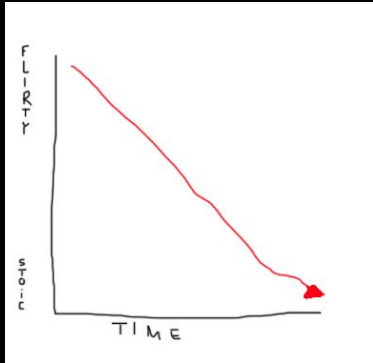
Director Paul Verhoeven claims that the depicted society is a gender neutral one - is this true?

No and yes :)

While the film portrays women in all tiers of society, the female protagonists fall flat and are quickly reduced to love interests (or failed ones) regardless of rank or social status.

- ☐ Whenever one of our heroines bests a guy - 1 sip
- ☐ Whenever gender is not an issue - 1 sip

Melrose Space



Mapping the transition from "Melrose" (flirty highschool, young adult micro-drama) to "space" (fascist rebirth into "true citizens")



- ❑ Whenever there is flirting - 1 sip
- ❑ Whenever career is a topic - 1 sip
- ❑ Whenever someone receives a "field-promotion" - 1 sip

Starship Troopers

Appreciation of the movie-ness of the movie with all its plot holes and narrative acrobatics.

- ❑ Plot armor - 1 sip
 - ❑ Whenever a character should have died but didn't
- ❑ It's a small galaxy after all - 1 sip
 - ❑ Whenever our heroes meet against all odds

