

Into the Deep (3D)

Though it opened a few weeks ago, there was very little publicity given to this new IMAX film. It's worth a plug here because it is one movie that can be fully recommended for the whole family, from 6 on up. *Into the Deep (3D)* was made in 1994, but it has taken ten years for it to reach the big screen at the National Museum of Natural History's Johnson IMAX Theater. Clocking in at a neat 37 minutes (it could go longer...), this film will remind oldsters (like this reviewer) of Walt Disney's "True-Life Adventures" that were shown in theaters from the 1950's on.

It actually has a script that is somewhat more serious than expected and is delivered by the classy actress Kate Nelligan, who narrates a tour of an ocean "forest" off the California coast with visits to many of its denizens. We get an introduction into the fascinating world of the bright Garibaldi fish, the bat ray, the eel, the octopus and the squid, the sea urchin and the coral. All the sights are intriguing and some are amazing, like the monstrous shag carpet made of entirely of brittle starfish and the swirling silver carpet of flying Spanish mackerel.

And it is all in three-D (funky plastic glasses are provided). This is, to my mind, even better than some other recent IMAX 3-D entries (like *Galapagos* or *TRex*) because of its underwater setting. The three dimensional effect is heightened, and more realistic, because you watch as if wearing an undersea mask, with your focus more intensified and your peripheral vision limited. As the camera glides by its wonders, it's as if you are scuba diving your way into and through them, seeing them in all their brilliant intensity. For those who aren't up to a Pacific or Indian Ocean deep sea dip, *Into the Deep (3D)* is a solid second choice.

("Into the Deep" is "G" rated and is family fare.)

(April 2005)