

Cloverfield (M)

About the film

Some Thing Has Found Us — On the eve of his departure for Japan, Rob (Michael Stahl-David) sees his going-away party as an opportunity to confess unresolved feelings and tie up loose ends. His agenda takes an unexpected turn when a jolt shakes the revelers.

The crowd quiets down to watch news reports of an earthquake, then rushes to the roof to assess the damage. A fireball explodes on the distant horizon. A power failure follows. Confusion gives way to panic as the partygoers stumble through the blackout and into the streets.

Amid the human screams and one inhuman roar, Rob and his friends must traverse a landscape that has changed, overtaken by something otherworldly, terrifying, monstrous...



Filmmaker's Statements

Producer J. J. Abrams said, "Having a movie about something as outlandish as a massive creature ... allows people to process and experience that fear in a way that is incredibly entertaining and incredibly safe.

"I began thinking, what if you were to see a monster the size of a skyscraper, but through the point of view of someone, relatively speaking, the size of a grain of sand? To see it not from God's eye or a director's or from an omnipotent point of view."

"What was intriguing to me about this project," says director Matt Reeves, "is the idea of taking something that has such a huge scale, but filming it on an intimate level. The mood emerges from being with these characters. The challenge then became to figure out a way to take something extraordinary and almost absurd – a monster attack – and deal with it in a way that feels utterly real."

Review

"Overall, Cloverfield is a well executed, unique and at times, even artful, take on the genre. But it's not for everyone. The camerawork is very shaky and dizzying—especially at first. In fact, the "amateur" quality of the filming is a bit overdone; few people could be this bad with a camcorder. So if Blair Witch or the Bourne movies made you queasy, think twice. Secondly, the movie is intense and even tries a bit too hard at times to crank up the danger. Thirdly, some people expecting a more Hollywood approach may be disappointed. It doesn't answer all the big questions of what's happening, or where the monster comes from, or why it's here. This is not the film's mission." — *Todd Hertz – Christianity Today*

Discussion Questions

1. What was your first reaction to the now famous ad featuring the Statue of Liberty's head flying through New York? Does it seem too soon for a movie to destroy New York? Will it ever again not be too soon?
2. Do you agree with J.J. Abrams statement about the film? Why or why not? Can these movies serve a greater purpose in dealing with fears? Why do people find it fun to be scared in a movie theatre? Anything wrong with that?
3. Was director Matt Reeves intention to deal with a fantasy situation and make it feel "utterly real" successful? If so, why? If not, why?
4. Who do I love? Who will I miss? What have I done with my life? And am I ready for what's next?" How do you see those ideas in Cloverfield? How would you answer those questions? How can you live every day with those questions at the forefront?