



Super-Squirrel Streaming Video Reviews. Started February 2021. SciFiOne.net *

Thanks for reading. I hope you found this useful. As of July 2023, I have stopped writing this page and will only be updating the "TV Shows Tried" list. Many, many, many more shows are tried and rejected than those that are good.

66 =====
Reviewed 2023

Crunchyroll

The Ancient Magus Bride- This 4 season(?) anime series is well above average. In fact, the first episode was so stunning I watched it end to end including the titles and credits music. It leveled out by the middle of season one (there were even a few episodes I skipped) but was still good. A young sad woman sells herself as a slave and is bought by a skull headed sorcerer who frees her. Turns out she has magic powers too - she is a "Slay Baby." It got too weird and dark at the end and I skipped quite a bit. Abandoned after season 1.

In Another World With My Smartphone- Anime. God collects a soul too soon. In apology, he sends the man to game based world with his now forever powered phone. There is no one to call and no internet, but the phone has an updated map app. The show is routine but fun, though I am unlikely to finish the series.

Restaurant to Another World- Anime. A temporary door appears in various worlds as needed and a customer comes through. In the restaurant the food is delicious and the customer's story is told. This show is above routine and is fun.

Hulu

Prey (2022)- A live action Predator prequel movie which is really quite good. It takes place in the 1700s among a Comanche tribe with a few French trappers thrown in. I deleted most of the trappers (boring) and some needless action before saving it for repeat viewing. (A dubbed Comanche version is available BTW.)

Nana (2006-7)- This 50 episode anime version of the "coming of age" manga is pretty good. I watched it many years ago and have captured it all English dubbed this time. So far I would guess about 2/3 the episodes will be worth archiving.

Tengoku Diamakyo- Anime. The English dubbed version is also known as **Heavenly Delusion**. I've only watched about half the episodes so far, but most were good. I think it is disposable, and I might not finish but I have all 13 episodes now.

Pinball- The Man Who Saved The Game (2022)- This sleeper of a movie was actually very well done. So much so that I finished it despite being late. I also never sped it up at all. It is a docudrama with good comic timing, very good casting, writing, directing, and editing. I archived for another viewing.

Buffy the Vampire Slayer (1997)- This show does not hold up to the test of time very well actually. Still, the better episodes from the first 4 seasons are worth watching even if a 10% speed increase is needed. I will edit those before archiving.

Netflix

Monster Trucks (2016)- A fun monster comedy movie that might be watchable more than once. Just suspend your disbelief and enjoy it.

65 (2022)- A grade B SciFi movie from Sam Raimi (Hercules, Xena, Spider-Man). It is rather well done, both the story and the video, but disposable.

Paramount+

Star Trek- Strange New Worlds- Season two was broadcasting as of July. I have not watched it yet and don't know if the strikes will affect it.

65 =====

Reviewed 2023

Stitchers

Stitchers was a sort of SciFi mystery crime drama that broadcast for three seasons on cable starting in 2015. There are thirty 45min episodes available on Hulu now. It is worth watching once but not twice. The acting is very good, but the scripts were poor.

64 =====

Reviewed 2023

FUBAR

This series was touted as based on the True Lies movie a generation later. But True Lies was an action movie with strong comedy notes and characters. FUBAR is basically a prime time melodramatic soap opera with violence. I could only watch it sped up to 1.25x, which Netflix supports fortunately.

63 =====

Reviewed 2023

Pretender

This late 90s Full Screen pseudo-SciFi TV show is now available on Amazon Prime- four seasons. I didn't watch it at the time. There were better things to watch and there were no summaries of the episodes either. But now there are plenty of summaries so I can skip episodes I don't want to watch, I can skip over internal content as needed, and there are no advertisements. I am enjoying it adequately with reservations this time but it went south by the end of season 2 and I abandoned it.

62 =====

Reviewed 2023

Doc Martin

We watched all of the show again including the two earlier movies, which are quite different, the recent last season, number 10, and the concluding Christmas special. This show is so good, I bought the whole thing and have it in my collection unedited. Bravo to the highest quality television.

61 =====

Reviewed 2023

Guardians of the Galaxy Holiday Special on Disney+

This is just plain fun with a stupendous performances by all but especially by Pom Klementieff as Mantis. This is definitely archivable.

60 =====

Reviewed 2023

New Star Wars spinoffs seasons on Disney+

Season 2 of The Bad Batch is available. It is not as good as season 1 but it is good enough. Season 3 of The Mandalorian is available and is also good enough. Both are "off" just a bit, I think because the earlier season(s) did all the development so the writers have to reach farther from the core to tell a story. That means more time spent with the villains which I don't like

and tended to edit out. But they were good enough for archiving with editing.

59 =====

Reviewed 2023

Leverage Redemption season 2

Season 2 is available on Amazon Freevee. It is not as good as season 1. I think it is mainly because the scripts seemed forced and the characters pushed too far. But it was good enough.

58 =====

Reviewed (2023)

Shows on Disney+ this January. I don't like to post negative reviews, but there are some famous titles Disney has destroyed this time so I thought it was important.

Willow. This is probably the most famous. Sadly, it is not Willow despite having Warwick Davis. The original Willow movie is reasonably fast paced, with an adult cast, and a lot of humor. This series is a serialized, tedious and long melodrama and doesn't even have comic relief. The cast is adult, but younger and less interesting. The original also did not have dark muddy fight scenes where the viewer could not really follow what was happening. We finished the series but it is very Disposable. Oh well. I have not heard that it has been renewed, but series one had a post script and hints in the credits that a second season is possible. I won't be watching it either way. At least Warwick Davis was excellent as usual.

National Treasure the Edge of History. Much too Disneyfied. Disney has once again taken a reasonably intelligent and quick paced adult cast movie and modified it beyond recognition. This series is a serialized, ethnic, tedious, and teen angst melodramatic mini-series. It started good, but failed in episodes 3 and 4. They really only have enough content for "30 min" episodes instead of "60 min." It is sad when the most interesting character is the villain. I might watch the concluding episode, if it arrives. Nope, never did.

The Mysterious Benedict Society. I can't compare this to the original because it is based on a book I have not read. This miniseries is serialized and has four kids with unusual thinking abilities who are selected for the Society. They are sent to investigate a basically "cult" school which is causing chaos in general society via mind control. It is a sort of alternate world story. I finished the first season by speeding up the playback 15 to 20% and skipping over extraneous crap. Abandoned after season 1.

57 =====

Reviewed (2022)

Wednesday (2022)

An 8 part light horror comedy mystery from Netflix and Tim Burton centered on the Wednesday character from the Addams Family. Wednesday has been kicked out of all the normal schools and is enrolled in a private academy for abnormals. It turns out someone or something is killing both students and normals from the local town, and Wednesday has to solve it. Wednesday and most of the other students are perfectly cast and acted. Most of the adult characters are also good although less important. They are also cast well except Gomez Adams who never worked for me. Fortunately he did not have much screen time. This show is a good one.

56 =====

Reviewed (2022)

Troll (2022)

An enjoyable basic monster movie. Kind of the Norwegian Godzilla and pretty much just plain fun. The first half (or more) needs no help. After that I suggest using some skips when it bogs down. Available in many dubbed languages from Netflix.

55 =====

Reviewed (2022)

Shows on AcornTV this season.

Brokenwood Mysteries. Thirty-six 90 minute episodes about a senior police detective solving way too many murders for a small town in New Zealand. These are basically TV movies. The stories are OK although I tend to speed some up 10% or fall asleep. Whether you like this show or not is mostly going to depend on whether you like the lead character. He was OK

to me but unacceptable to my wife. The supporting characters are interesting though. This is not a cozy mystery although it has some fun moments. Disposable.

My Life Is Murder, season 3. Lucy Lawless (Xena) plays a retired police detective who bakes bread and assists the police in solving murders with the assistance of a couple of tech experts. Season 1 was set in Australia. The pandemic forced production to move to New Zealand. The show is an enjoyable odd sort of cozy mystery. I consider it collectible and edit and archive as necessary.

Kingdom. Stephen Fry plays a small town UK solicitor who solves various odd problems for the local seaside residents. And the residents and Kingdom's colleagues are quite quirky and delightful. It is not quite good enough to watch twice, but it is fun. Be warned though that there are only 18 episodes and the last one is problematic and open ended. The pseudo cliff hangers will never be resolved. Disposable.

Doc Martin. Previously reviewed.

54 =====

Reviewed (2022)

A Couple Of Cuckoos

This is apparently a pretty famous Manga. Crunchyroll was releasing the dubbed versions at a slow pace so I looked it up, which was interesting. I never did figure out how many episodes there were in the original Japanese versions. But, I enjoyed the 24 episodes available in English. Two late teens who were switched at birth end up in an arranged engagement and living in their own house to get to know each other. Soon there are two more women in the house, a "sister," and a woman competing with them from high school. This makes for some interesting friendships and friction. I would recommend watching this daily instead of weekly to keep track of who is who. I archived it and am currently watching it again without delays between episodes.

53 =====

Reviewed (2022)

Doc Martin

The tenth and final season of Doc Martin is streaming on AcornTV now (the other nine seasons seem to be available too). So we started rewatching our DVD collection from season one. Doc Martin is a "one hour" dry British dramedy about an acerbic, withdrawn, and blunt surgeon who has been assigned as the general physician in a small coastal village because of an aversion to blood. The collection of eccentric characters in the village is as strange as it gets and so is the show. We love it. How they make some of these situations funny I will never understand. I just watch and enjoy.

52 =====

Reviewed (2022)

Bad Batch (Star Wars)

I think I tried all the live action Star Wars spinoffs Disney has to offer so far. Although they did offer some entertainment, they were mostly disposable. Two shows were archived but only after some difficult editing. The 75 minute pilot of Bad Batch had stalled me since it required a significant block of time. But when I watched it, I was quite impressed and, after episode five, started recording it for my collection. The animation of the characters has weaknesses but the scenery was often beautiful. This is a good one.

51 =====

Reviewed (2022)

Andor (Star Wars)

Andor is initially dull, slow paced, quite antagonistic, and dystopian (apparently that was the intention). It has a war is hell type attitude. That is a good thing for people to know, but not that interesting for an experienced viewer.

Very little happens in an individual episode but the series does have internal 3 episode story arcs that are pretty good. The characters are less than interesting and have little development. I didn't really care what happened to any of them. It is visually ugly. Compared to this, Amazon Prime's "Rings of Power" looks like a beautiful fast moving series. Andor is basically a 6 hour movie serialized to 12 episodes. Since the show was not scheduled to end soon enough for

me, I gave up, canceled my Disney subscription, and moved the money to AcornTV which had a lot of good things at the time.

50 =====

Reviewed (2022)

The Orville: New Horizons (aka The Orville season 3)

Sadly, the "New Horizons" did not seem very new to me. Most of the stories dealt with prejudice, material from seasons 1 and 2, or both. Bringing prejudice to the forefront of awareness is important but not to the point of boredom. I think the biggest problem this season was under-editing. The shows tended to belabor a topic after the point was made and I was ready to move on. Overall, I ended up discarding three episodes, keeping four episodes with heavy editing (10-20 min), and three with minimal editing (0-3min). Never the less, the basics from seasons 1 & 2 were there and I enjoyed watching the series better than most recent shows.

I waited until the whole series had aired before streaming it. At that point the show was available via my Roku without a Hulu subscription as near as I can tell. Disney's and Roku's subscription processes seem a bit opaque to me.

49 =====

Reviewed (2022)

Extraordinary Attorney Woo

This Korean import is available on Prime. It actually includes two things I typically avoid, legal shows and subtitles. Subtitles detract from the visual elements which I like looking at. And the visuals are good in this show. As for legal, I just don't care for the genre anymore even though this was as much about an investigating attorney as opposed to a courtroom piece. But the show is so beautifully done, that I watched three before abandoning it.

48 =====

Reviewed (2022)

Obi Wan Kenobi

One of the better Star Wars streaming spinoffs available from Disney+. It has six episodes and had its good areas and tedious places. Overall I was both impressed and unimpressed. The story is sandwiched between movie stories three and four and uses the same characters. Sadly that means it cannot go anyplace in the long run. The new characters Reva and Tala were fabulously interesting but a little predictable. We watched and liked it all but eventually disposed of it.

47 =====

Reviewed (2022)

Camp Cretaceous season 5

The fifth and final season of this Jurassic Park animated spinoff is available on Netflix. I thought it was a bit weak but the app allowed speeding it up to 1.25x. That made it a little fast but easily viewable.

46 =====

Reviewed (2022)

Nature Documentaries

One of the fringe benefits of Paramount+ is they have some good nature documentaries. The best was probably David Attenborough's Great Barrier Reef. Not only did he narrate it but he was also involved in the filming at 88! Other shows I watched came from the Smithsonian and were better than I expected. They were a little slow but better than various National Geographic shows I have tried. Waterworld Africa looks at things I have seen before, but the different perspective and new images were interesting. The Mysteries Of The Mekong examined life along the Mekong in three different countries and was also interesting. I also recorded Brazil Untamed which is weaker but still enjoyable.

45 =====

Reviewed (2022)

"Mrs Bradley Mysteries" (2000)

This five episode light period mystery stars the indomitable Diana Rigg as the unfiltered, divorced Mrs Bradley and Neil Dudgeon as her patient, intelligent, and interesting "assistant." It deals with the serious subject of murder in a light sarcastic tone. It is very well cast, written and preformed. If you like this kind of British material, this is one of the best. I liked 4 of the 5 episodes. It is available from Britbox.

44 =====

Reviewed (2022)

"Relic Hunter" (2022)

Relic Hunter was a syndicated B budget adventure show based on the Tomb Raider and Indiana Jones themes. It is from the Xena and Hercules era and ran for three seasons pretty randomly in late night time slots in my area. But it was pretty well cast, had adequate writing, acting, characters, and humor and was basically fun to watch. When a DVD set was released years ago, they only included a random selection of half of the shows from seasons one and two for some reason.

I am into season three now and I think I understand why it is frowned on. There is very little "hunting" taking place anymore. Instead a better title might be "Relic Fighting" because most of air time is spent with, arguing with, and fighting the villain of the week. Kind of dull.

All of of the episodes are now available from FreeVee via Amazon Prime. FreeVee has ads which have to be dealt with. As for watching, the titles are long, some scenes need to be skipped, and most of the teasers are a waste of time. But I am enjoying watching the ones I have not seen since about 2000 and saving the good ones.

Update. Season three seems to have deemphasized the "hunting" and is more "Relic Fighter" with a villain of the week. It does not work as well that way.

43 =====

Reviewed (2022)

"Bureau of Magical Things, season 2" (2022)

Season two of this Australian half hour cozy fantasy is available from Netflix now. The prejudice is even more pronounced than season one but was fairly easy to edit down to a tolerable level. The writers had to make up a new reason for the prejudice of course since the first reason was pretty much solved in season one. It is still light fantasy fun, and I will watch it again some day. I edited and saved 18 of the 20 episodes for later viewing.

42 =====

Reviewed July 2, 2022

Instinct

I found this broadcast CBS series a few years back at about episode 208, watched a couple and liked them before the show was canceled. I've been looking for it ever since. I rediscovered it after signing up for Paramount+ which has all 24 episodes. The story is a police detective duo, crime drama, mystery. What makes it good is the two oddball detectives - one a retired CIA agent turned professor/writer and the other a kind of stiff detective with a backstory. Both characters have enjoyable attitudes. It also has Whoopie Goldberg in season 1 as the professor's book editor. Those scenes are great. The show is a bit too graphic and nasty at times, and there is a bit too much padding in other places. I also don't like all the episodes, but I captured them all in case it disappears again. Once all have been watched and edited I will save the best, about 80% of them.

41 =====

Reviewed July 2, 2022

Star Trek Strange New Worlds

I waited until there were a batch of episodes available before watching. I think they did a disservice to the show comparing it to the original so much. I had expectations the show did not meet based on TOS. The differences are mainly in the characters. I expected upbeat, charismatic characters with attitude. The new characters are mostly damaged, morose, and dwell on their problems. FWIW, the characters I liked were Nurse Chapel, Number One, sometimes Security Chief Noonien-Singh, and, before he left, Hemmer. Sadly, all but Chapel were gone by the end. Maybe some will return. There

were some content problems compared to TOS - The Gorn, really? I do have a question. Why do they think the audience needs a "previously" all the time? Fortunately I could skip those.

But SNW stands on its own adequately! I liked five of the ten although all my copies have edits. It sounds bad, but the results are about the same as the first year of TNG, for which editing was not available. Anyway, it is an enjoyable and good enough series if you are the right generation and come at it cold. Clearly, I am not the target audience.

40 =====

Reviewed May 25, 2022

Miss Kobayashi's Dragon Maid

An odd 13+ episode dubbed Japanese animated domestic fantasy available on Crunchyroll (I used the iOS app). I doubt anyone from a western culture could even think it up. An ordinary woman office worker rescues an injured dragon who takes human form and works as a live in maid. Eventually there are several dragons in the house and we find out why the dragon actually wants to be her maid. The show makes fun of just about everything including: themselves, body shape, cultural differences, sex, too much "skin," school, and comic conventions. Season 1 is quite enjoyable. Season 2 pushes the envelope too far, has too limited a range of humor, and fails in most episodes.

39 =====

Reviewed May 12, 2022

Wandering Witch - The Journeys of Elaina

A 12 part dubbed Japanese animated fantasy available on Crunchyroll.com. Elaina grew up reading stories about a traveling witch and decided she wanted to do that too. So she becomes one of the youngest witches and flies off. That's episode one. Episode 2 is almost the exact same story, and I was not sure about the series. But I basically liked it and stuck with it thankfully. I am not sure if it is disposable or archivable. The plots are not as good as some of the other shows I have watched, but it is better than most I try or watch. BTW, Crunchroll.com in a computer browser is OK but Crunchyrollbeta was poorly executed. It was clumsy to use, hard to find dubbed material, and the Watchlist is never accurate. Funimation.com is much easier to use but apparently they are merging. On the other hand, the Crunchyroll iOS app works very well and that is where I watch now.

38 =====

Reviewed Apr 30, 2022

Harry Wild (2022)

Several new mystery/detective/crime drama shows dropped on AcornTV in April. This amateur detective crime drama is the only one we liked enough to continue watching. The main reason is Jane Seymour plays the lead. Her character is an intelligent, delightful, wacky, unfiltered university professor who has retired to the town in Ireland where her son is a police detective. She keeps ending up accidentally involved in mysteries and even hires the young man who mugged her in the first episode as her assistant! All of which messes up her son's life. The show is too dark and there are too many villains to make it re-watchable. Episode 4 is almost all villain and down right vulgar in my opinion. Episode 5 degenerates to a nasty topic. But the show is an acceptable disposable one off series.

37 =====

Reviewed Apr 30, 2022

Bubble (2022)

One of the odd dubbed Japanese animated fantasy movies that I like for some reason. The story combines parkour, The Little Mermaid, interesting SciFi, and a bit of Close Encounters of the Third Kind. I did speed it up 10%, but enjoyed it rather a lot and archived a copy to watch again. Available on Netflix.

36 =====

Reviewed Apr 29, 2022

Better Off Ted (2009)

This was actually a broadcast office sitcom. I don't normally like these but I liked this one for some reason. This is my third viewing and I still like it - probably because of the sarcasm about industry. I have my own copy but it is available on Hulu or Prime.

35 =====

Reviewed Apr 9, 2022

Apollo 10.5 (2022)

A hypothetical animated story based on the McGuffin that a young boy is sent to the moon before adults landed there. But after a brief intro the movie actually flashed back, and the first 2/3 is really a documentary about life in the late 60s. That part is reasonably interesting IF you are interested. The last part is mostly the kid's trip to the moon and is very dull. I had to speed it up to 1.25x. Available on Netflix.

34 =====

Reviewed Apr 9, 2022

Captain Nova (2021)

A TV level movie from the Netherlands available dubbed via Netflix. The show is clearly not filmed in North America so the American English version had some translation problems. Maybe the British English dubbing would remove it from North America enough that it would work better for Americans. It was also slow (I ended up at 1.18x), and the science had some problems (there is no land at the north pole). This may have again been a translation problem. It is still a pretty good near future cautionary SciFi story and I enjoyed it. It was better than the only other review I found on the internet, but it is still disposable.

33 =====

Reviewed (Apr 7, 2022)

"Kotaro Lives Alone"

Dubbed Japanese animation via Netflix. A five year old, going on 25, rents an apartment and lives alone. He makes friends with and helps neighbors who also help him. During the 10 episodes, we find out why and how he lives alone. Slow rate binge watch is recommended. Archived for future repeat watching.

32 =====

Reviewed (Mar 30, 2022)

"Lost Song"

A 12 part, half hour, kind of odd dubbed Japanese animation available on Netflix. Songs sung by two young women in a war torn world have the power to affect the world - and they do. The two villains, Rupert and Basra are over used, but I liked the show enough to watch it twice. The story becomes fairly odd SciFi in the middle. Edited and archived.

31 =====

Reviewed (Mar 17, 2022)

"The Adam Project (2022)""

This is a pretty good SciFi movie available on Netflix. It is a little sappy in places from the bullying after the teaser to the sticky family dad scenes to the Star Wars style action scenes. I did speed it up to 1.13x at about 2/3 of the way thru, but I liked it and kept a copy with four scenes (about 10 min) edited out. That might be enough to solve the problems.

30 =====

Reviewed (Mar 16, 2022)

"Murder in Provence"

This is a light police murder investigation show available on Britbox. There are three approximately 90 minute episodes- so far. Why it takes place in France with all English speaking actors I don't know. But the actors are excellent, the ambience and the characters are very enjoyable, and the stories are good. I consider it disposable and watch it about 45 min at a time, but will miss it when we have finished. The third episode is actually tense at the end.

29 =====

Reviewed (Mar 16, 2022)

"Kino's Journey- The Beautiful World"

This 12 part, half hour, Japanese animated series is available on Funimation. It is the best SciFi I have seen in many years. The artwork is good, the characters are good, and the stories are complex and excellent. I liked it so much I captured it and am already watching it again seeing things I missed the first time. In each episode Kino travels on her AI motorcycle to another "country" to visit for three days to learn about their culture. (Not a dissimilar concept from the original Star Trek.) In some episodes, other travelers take the lead. All the countries are oddly walled and discrete for some reason and all have a "problem." It does not appear to be on earth since there are two suns.

28 =====

Reviewed (2022)

"The Orbital Children" (2022)

This animated 6 part SciFi from Netflix is OK. It is a survival story among other things. A comet on its way to hit earth also damages a space hotel stranding several kids and adults in various places. Can they survive the leaks and failures of the station along with the conspiracies and general incompetence? It gets way too abstract at the end though.

27 =====

Reviewed (2022)

"Sword Art Online"

A Japanese animated fantasy. Players who log into a multiplayer online game using new VR sets are stuck there. If they die there, they apparently die in reality. The show started a bit boring but got quite a lot better. More and more characters were added, the main characters were developed quite a bit, and the battles took second place in the writing.

I liked season 1, part 2 of season 2, and season 3. Those were archived. Season 4 is now available but I disliked it so much I abandoned it.

26 =====

Reviewed (2022)

"Mr. Stink" (2021?)

Probably the best fantasy Christmas special I have ever seen - 1 hour, available on Britbox. I've watched it twice now. A very young teen befriends a very bad smelling homeless man who lives in the park, and she brings him home to live in the shed. He turns out to be very, very special indeed. The show is extremely well made and acted, and all the delightful characters undergo character growth.

25 =====

Reviewed (2022)

"Mezzotint- A Ghost Story for Christmas" (2022)

A man is haunted by an ever changing print of a house at night with a ghoul on the front lawn - until... no more spoilers. Pretty much he is the only one who can see the changes. A pretty good one-off half hour Christmas horror story available from Britbox.

24 =====

Reviewed (2022)

"Your Name" (2016)

I purchased this animated modern Japanese fantasy movie from Prime. It is quite good but also slow. I ended up at 1.13x speed. The animation is very good but no better than many of the others I have seen despite what the critics say. Still, it was worth the purchase and I have a copy to watch again.

23 =====

Reviewed (2022)

"Bureau of Magical Things" (2018)

Season one is available from Netflix. This is an Australian half hour cozy fantasy. About 15 of the 20 episodes are enjoyable enough that I archived the show for later viewing. Towards the end the prejudice of the fairies and elves against the human who accidentally acquired magic becomes a bit tedious. And it was the magic world's fault to start with. Still, it

is light fantasy fun, and I will watch it again some day.

22 =====

Reviewed (2021)

"Puff- Wonders of the Reef" (2021)

Available from Netflix, this is one of the best and most enjoyable nature documentaries I have ever seen. Superficially it follows a puffer fish from baby to adult. In actuality it focuses on all aspects of reef ecology including creatures that float, swim, and anchor from the macro to the microscopic, especially the seldom seen microscopic. 60 minutes. Very good.

21 =====

Reviewed (2021)

"Leverage Redemption" (2021)

Created by and streaming on IMDB, it is also available on Amazon Prime. It is free because it has ads, about 5 min per "hour" episode. The original Leverage (2008) is also available for streaming. In Redemption, three of the original stars reprise their rolls of Sophie (grifter and new leader), Parker (the thief), and Elliot (the muscle). The Nathan Ford character (mastermind) has died, and is replaced with a lawyer. The lawyer is not as strong a character as Ford was. Hardison (the hacker) is replaced by his sister, but also guest stars occasionally. I think the show is as good as the original. There are 16 episodes and I archived 14 of them for later viewing. About the same amount of editing has been required as the original. Parker is still my favorite character.

20 =====

Reviewed (2021)

"The Yeti Adventures" (2018)

Originally titled Mission Kathmandu: The Adventures of Nelly & Simon. This animated period fantasy adventure comedy is from Canada but feels very French. It is very free spirited, light hearted, and impossible - just good fun, with delightful animation. Two explorers and a guide try to find the Yeti in Kathmandu. I do not know why Netflix used that title unless it is the title used by distributors of the English dubbed version. Another known title is A Yeti Adventure. 83 minutes.

19 =====

Reviewed (2021)

"Troll Hunters- Rise of the Titans" (2021)

Troll Hunters finished its story with a 1h 44m movie on Netflix. I watched it in segments stopping at the natural breaks. I have always considered the show disposable and the movie is a bit more so. The only thing new is the Titans so there is not much character development. The rest is just big battles which I find boring. It does have a good end though

18 =====

Reviewed (2021)

"Violet Evergarden the Movie"

Violet Evergarden finished its story with a 2h 20m movie on Netflix. I watched the dubbed version in segments stopping at the natural breaks. I also archived it both as a movie and as episodes ranging from 17 min to 27 min long. It is not quite as good as the previous installments and my viewing speed ranged from 1.13x to 1.18x at the end. Be sure to watch the bonus scene after the credits. I wish they had subtitled the closing credits song which sounds quite beautiful.

17 =====

Reviewed (2021)

"Snow White With Red Hair"

Japanese animation about a young herbalist (doctor) with red hair. Season 1 (12 episodes) starts with her kidnapping by the local boorish prince. She is rescued by a white haired prince from another town. She moves there and starts training to be a court herbalist. It is a bit of a poor girl rich prince romance but it is pretty good. Most of season 1 is episodic. Season 2 (12 episodes) has a long 7 episode story arc which I had to watch daily or I tended to lose track of the story. It is still quite good and, although it does not end the way one might expect, it is a very good end. I archived the dubbed version, and this is my second time watching it. This is available from Funimation and Hulu or for purchase from Amazon. Be sure to check if they

are dubbed or subtitled.

16 =====

Reviewed (2021)

"Is It Wrong To Pick Up Girls In A Dungeon"

In this odd animated Netflix series the gods (Greek this time) made the land and then came down to join the mortals. The land has an adventure tower in the middle where adventurers fight monsters for crystals which can be exchanged for money. The town around it provides support for the fighters, mostly food, shelter, supplies, etc. Despite the title, the story actually has a soul. Most characters, including the protagonists, are regular characters. There is impossible beefcake and cheesecake but it is not Mature Audience other than skimpy clothing. Archived, and this is my second time watching it.

15 =====

Reviewed (2021)

"Nightbooks (2021) 103min

A scary movie from Netflix that I thoroughly enjoyed. It is based on a book and some readers have complained that they did not like the movie (fairly common.) But I have never read the book and found the movie a lot of fun and reasonably scary. A kid who writes scary stories is trapped by a witch who wants a new story every night. He and the trapped witch's servant manage to escape of course but it is not easy.

14 =====

Reviewed (2021)

Various Movies

I watch a lot of movies. This summer Prime and Netflix had several notable movies. In alphabetical order...

George And The Dragon (2004) [aka Dragon Sword] is from the UK. It is a grade B+, post Crusades period, fantasy movie with comedy, odd characters, emotions, and action. I watched this for the fourth time, still enjoyed it, and finally have a properly formatted clean copy. Good cast.

Ghost In The Shell (three versions in reverse order). Netflix has the series Ghost In The Shell SAC-2045 released in 2020. It is pretty good, maybe grade B-, but it sort of falls apart at the end. Next I watched the live action movie Ghost In The Shell (2017) featuring Scarlett Johansson. It is available to rent from Amazon but I have an edited copy on DVD-R. I rated it grade B+ the first time and grade A- edited. Finally Prime has the original 1996 animated movie remastered by the director and now called Ghost In The Shell 2.0. In 2008 I abandoned watching a version recorded on a VCR with ads off the TV. It did not seem worth the effort. This time I was able to finish it but had to speed it up 13%. It seems a bit out of date, with animation not sophisticated enough, and a story that is a bit too abstract - rated grade C+. But it is now available for fans.

Gunpowder Milkshake (2021), with its great title and cast, was the most anticipated. I was slightly disappointed the first time I watched it rating it B-. The movie is hyper-violent and bloody. So much so, that the violence swamped the performances by the five talented actresses. I used the skip key and sped it up 10% in the middle. It could have been grade A if restraint had been used. I waited a while and watched it again skipping the teaser and other bits and making editing notes. All told 15% ended up on my cutting room floor. It will be interesting to see how well the edit works a few years from now.

Jolt (2021) is a grade A- hyperkinetic action movie. The difference between it and Gunpowder is there is a single protagonist, beautifully played by Kate Beckinsale. She has a lot of character depth and growth. I liked Jolt quite a lot, and, with a few excess scenes deleted, I kept a copy for future viewing. I suspect it will be grade A next time.

Masterminds (1997), with a talented cast including Patrick Stewart, is grade B+. It is fun, with boarding school kids defeating invading villains via trickery and hacking. I didn't actually watch it this time because I recently watched my old full screen copy. But I finally have a properly formatted wide screen version without pop-ups across the bottom and logos in the corners.

Perfect Score (2004), grade B+, is heist movie about a bunch of High Schoolers who try to steal the SAT answers. It turned out to be one of the most enjoyable with great character portrayals and development. Many of the young stars are now famous including Scarlett Johansson and Chris Pine.

The Tomorrow War (2021) is a grade B- SciFi war movie. Soldiers travel to the past to fix things. The teaser is just footage from the middle of the movie and can be skipped. I watched the movie sped up 10% and with the skip key as needed. I like SciFi time travel though and kept an edited copy to see if it gets better.

Wish Dragon (2021) is a grade B+ modern animated Chinese fable of romance, friendships, and fantasy. It is not astounding but it is a hell of a lot of fun. I enjoyed it thoroughly and kept a copy for future viewing. If I remember correctly Jackie Chan was a producer.

13 =====

Reviewed (2021)

"Eden" and two more.

This four episode Japanese animated SciFi show from Netflix had me mesmerized in episode one and I kept thinking of Issac Asimov. A world of robots raises one human baby girl. It is the most intelligent new thing I have watched in a long time. It does end adequately so if no more episodes are made it could be treated as a serialized movie or mini-series with half hour episodes. It will be archived for future viewing.

I also tried the live action shows "Ginny and Georgia" and "The Girl From Nowhere." "Ginny..." is a well done A budget American social drama with interesting characters but I could not take the direction it is going or the angst. "Girl..." is a dubbed Korean B budget vigilante drama but the content was way to dark for me - it was so weak I had to speed it up to 1.25x to watch it at all. It is too bad because all the characters in "Ginny..." were well done and the protagonist in "Girl..." was excellent.

12 =====

Reviewed (2021)

"Agatha Raisin"

We are actually watching this for the second time from our archives. It is available to Acorn.tv members or for purchase on Amazon Prime. The show is taken from the M.C. Beaton books - one book per hour. She is a retired PR exec turned amateur sleuth of the bumble onto the solution type. We used to listen to the audio books on long drives. The TV series is actually better. The stories are basically just a stage to watch some wonderfully acted, enjoyable, distinctive, and very eccentric characters.

11 =====

"Good Omens"

Reviewed (2021)

A just plain weird live action odd sort of fantasy show from Amazon Prime. Six 1-hr episodes with an outstanding UK cast. It is very odd, very well done, exotic, and existential. I archived a copy to watch again later.

10 =====

Reviewed (2021)

"Spice and Wolf"

A delightful Japanese half hour animated fantasy series about a traveling merchant who befriends and travels with a wolf girl. The era is horse and cart. I first found it on Hulu but it was subtitled and the reading time it was short making it difficult to watch -but worth it anyway. I eventually found it dubbed on Amazon and bought it. The price covered both seasons although the website did not indicate that ahead of time. I archived a copy and have watched it twice.

9 =====

Reviewed (2021)

"Jurassic World - Camp Cretaceous"

Six tweens(?) win a trip to a refurbished Jurassic Park and the usual takes place leaving them stranded to survive alone. From Netflix with about 8 half hour episodes per season, the show is intelligent enough and has good enough character development to make it watchable. I've watched two seasons so far and Season 3 will be out May 21. Although I marked it Disposable it might be worth repeating some day if it is still around.

8 =====

Reviewed (2021)

"Country Comfort"

A very routine sitcom on Netflix. It started out very strong but quickly became very routine. I gave up after episode 4.

7 =====

Reviewed (2021)

"Life in Color with David Attenborough"

A very enjoyable 3 part examination of the use of color in life on Netflix. It's Attenborough, it's good, and I archived a copy.

6 =====

Reviewed (2021)

"Shadow and Bone"

A disappointing, predictable, dark, and dystopian modern fantasy on Netflix. If you like this kind of thing, it is probably excellent. I did not like the situation, editing, or the characters and could not even finish episode one. One hour per episode - Abandoned

5 =====

Reviewed (2021)

"Alien TV"

Grade B-

A cute little animated cartoon with three small alien (think Roswell) TV reporters examining three facets of Earth in each half hour episode, chattering all the while in their indecipherable language. It is not particularly funny but their clumsy attempts to figure out how earth works are a cute disposable diversion.

4 =====

Reviewed (2021)

"Dota- Dragon's Blood"

Grade Z

This half hour Japanese animated fantasy series never held my attention for some reason. I tried 3 episodes, fell asleep in one, and got bored in the third, saving half for later and still not finishing it. After that I just abandoned the show. There does not seem to be anything wrong with it otherwise. It was financed by and is on Netflix.

3 =====

Reviewed (2021)

"New Tricks"

Grade B

This series is a one hour lightly humorous 2004 UK police procedural which is at 12 seasons now (I'm on season 5). A team of retired old school eccentric male cops is lead by a middle age female detective played by Amanda Redman. (All the actors are excellent.) They investigate old but not closed cases. Their "procedure" is not always modern or proper. The series is available on Britbox.

The personal life bits are weak but the detective interactions are great. I have skipped some shows entirely because of the content description (things like the mob) and used the skip button in the middle of others. Overall, the characters are a lot of fun and I like most episodes without editing. I do consider it disposable (watch once) though.

2 =====

Reviewed (2018)

"Violet Evergarden"

Grade A

This series is a half hour Japanese animated drama about Violet, a young woman who does not know anything but being a soldier. Now that there is peace she is trying to learn to be a normal person. It was financed by Netflix and is still available there along with a couple of specials.

The show is slightly SciFi or Fantasy because of the underlying cybernetic premise, but just barely. A couple of episodes became a bit graphic but not overly so. The show is incredibly good and I retained a copy with a few edits on my computer. I've already watched it twice.

1 =====

Reviewed (2020)

"Drifting Dragons"

Grade B-

An odd 12 part half hour Japanese animated series viewed via Netflix. The premise seems to be old style sail based whaling for meat and oil except they are now hunting flying dragons via odd Japanese steampunk zeppelins. If you can get over the gruesome concept it is actually pretty good. I consider it disposable but would watch another season if they made one.

=====

(* The squirrel image is from the internet and was not credited. I do not own it and do not know photographer. No profit is being made from this website.)