

## Gravity

Presentation by Elliott Brett

- 11 BAFTA nominations
- 3 Golden Globe nominations, 1 win for Best Director
- Screen actors guild nomination
- AFI award winner, and numerous other nominations
- 68 awards won so far

Q. Have you ever wondered what it is like to be in space?

Q. Have you ever imagined how an astronaut survives in space?

Q. Can you imagine what it is like to be in trouble, when being in space?

This is **Gravity**. A **modern-day story** of what life is like, and can be like for human beings working and living in a place in which we basically don't belong.

1. **Written, produced and directed** by Alfonso Cuarón a 52 year-old Mexican. As a boy he dreamt of space. Lying to his mother – supposedly out with friends, but in reality at the movie theatre, dreaming.
2. **This is a 3-D movie.** How many of you here like 3-D movies? Be honest! Why do people like or dislike 3-D?

Well, **Anne Billson of the Daily Telegraph** newspaper says:

“**Gravity** changed my mind about 3-D”. She thinks it to be more than an average effect, instead, it is **an immersive experience**.

**3-D movies began** in the early 1950's. A response to **losing moviegoers** to television. Even today, with high quality 3-D, How many of you own a 3-D television set and want to see 3-D television?

**Older** and even recent **3-D** was and is still seen as **a gimmick**, just a fun effect. **Gravity** tries to be different. You have the **immersive experience** of being inside the astronaut's suit, of seeing what they see in a **1<sup>st</sup>-person perspective**. This isn't just for fun, this 3-D is to get you too to feel **claustrophobic**, a sense of being trapped in a small confined space.

3. **Lead actors** Sandra Bullock and George Clooney. She is freshly trained, **a rookie** on her 1<sup>st</sup> space walk, connected only with **an umbilical cord** to the shuttle. He is the **veteran**, the mentor, riding his jet pack as if cruising in his Ferrari like a **middle-aged joker**.

They are both great actors, and both give a very **convincing performance** of their roles.

4. Q. What do you, here, think of an astronaut's job? Fun? Boring?

We may consider their **work** monotonous, but these **simple procedures** have to be executed in an **extreme** environment. It is seemingly mundane, perhaps boring work, but in these **claustrophobic**, zero gravity, **zero** oxygen conditions, work requires **maximum** concentration - maximum use of the senses.

**Sandra** Bullock's character is **pushed to the limits**, as is George Clooney's, but as **the veteran** he has an air of **confidence** and joviality: a **deadly situation** treated as another day at the office. **George guides and teaches**, as **Sandra draws on all her training to survive**.

5. This is a **story of contrast**. Seemingly **simple procedures**, and then situations that would make **you or I break down** and lose control. While watching I **reached out** to Sandra, **willing her** to achieve her goal. I was absorbed in the film, **putting myself in her shoes**. Always the question: **What would you do?**

Another **contrast** involves how the Earth is shown. At one stage warm, blue and white: a beautiful place. Later on, we are presented with a dark, frightening and cold Earth.

6. For such a **simple**, at times slow-paced **film**, it presents **deeper themes**. The **umbilical cord**, **the position of Sandra Bullock's body** as she floats as if in **the womb of her mother**, to **the steps she later takes**. You see **both birth and death, failure and success**.

**The core** of this film, I believe, is our **necessity to live, and to succeed**.

7. **YouTube:** There is a certain scene in the movie in which Sandra Bullock has a verbal communication with an unknown person. This is a rather strange conversation because we cannot see the person that she talks with. The producers of the film understood this, and so created the other side of the conversation for us to see and gain further understanding. Go to YouTube, and type in **Gravity spin-off**.

Thank you for coming tonight. Please enjoy this fantastic story. And, as always, I look forward to seeing you at Anderson House.

Enjoy the film.