

Jeff Kirkendall's Thoughts For The Month Column

Thoughts, Opinions, Reviews, Commentary & More!

Hello and Welcome! My name is Jeff Kirkendall and I'm an independent filmmaker and actor from the Upstate New York area. This is the section of the Very Scary Productions website where I write about topics related to independent filmmaking, digital video production, acting, movies in general, horror movies in particular, my own indie movies, as well as anything and everything related or in between.

I decided to create this commentary page because I find that I often come across things that either interest me, excite me, intrigue me, or maybe just bug me. Any topic related to movies and cinema is fair game, from the most mainstream to the most controversial. For example I'll often read about movie projects that I have a strong interest in or opinion on, for one reason or another. This page gives me a forum to discuss these things. It's all about discussion and furthering understanding of our pop culture. Anyone who has feedback concerning what I have to say here, feel free to contact me (see the contact link at <http://www.veryscaryproductions.com/>).

I'd also like to point out that the following is just my opinion, and everyone is free to agree or disagree with what I have to say. Enjoy, and to all the Indies out there: Keep on Filming!

SUBJECT: Movie Review – ***The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 1*** – December 2011

*Note: The following movie review of ***The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 1*** contains plot detail spoilers.*

In this latest installment of the ***Twilight*** saga teen Bella Swan (Kristen Stewart) and her vampire heartthrob boyfriend Edward Cullen (Robert Pattinson) finally get married in a grand ceremony, much to the dismay of her wolf friend Jacob (Taylor Lautner) and the befuddlement of her father Charlie (Billy Burke). Following a long honeymoon at a secluded beach house in scenes reminiscent of ***The Blue Lagoon***, Bella finds herself pregnant with a baby that could threaten her life and also the delicate truce between the vampire and wolf clans. As the birth of the baby gets closer lots of heavy drama ensues...

* In my review of the first installment of the ***Twilight*** saga I praised the movie for having good acting, interesting characters and a compelling Romeo & Juliet-style love story. Having now seen all four films I can say that none of that has changed, and also that I personally liked ***Twilight*** and ***Eclipse*** a bit better than parts two and four in the series mainly because the first and third installments had more action in them. I could comment on many specific plot elements in ***Breaking Dawn Part 1***, but suffice it to say that, generally speaking, fans of this series (as well as fans of teen soap operas) will probably like this film as much as any of the preceding ones. And people who didn't like ***Twilight*** from the beginning – notably many horror fans - will only have that view reinforced by watching the latest installment. This is primarily because the series is mostly about drama, romance and love (as opposed to horror, blood and gore) amongst young people who just happen to also be vampires and wolves. Being the tried and true horror fan that I am, I'll simply say that I will probably always prefer cinematic creatures of the feral, vicious nature to cultured, outspoken ones. However that having been said, there is also nothing wrong with a good love story as well every now and then.

* See the January 2009 TFTM column for a review of ***Twilight***.