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Subject: Re: Sky Captain was pretty good  
Posted by [lon](#) on Mon, 31 Jan 2005 19:19:30 GMT  
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I am not doing movie reviews like I did on the early days of usenet. But if I did, I would say that if the film was not favorably received it's likely that a lot of the references to the cliffhangers of old and early science fiction were missed. A slew of names came to mind while watching this both the first and second time I viewed it: Flash Gordon, Hugo Gernsback, Phillip Wylie, Commander Cody, Amazing Science Fiction, Captain Video, Island of Dr. Moreau. There were a jillion film quotes in it. The dialog style is based on stock themes from the period: Airborne hero, plucky reporter etc etc. I watched the credits for the various production teams roll and roll. It was like every CGI house in the world had a piece of this. In another sense, I see this as a first-- an experiment with these new techniques like Final Fantasy before it. But what I've thought for many years now is: When will they adapt the really great science fiction stories now that the technology provides the means? Phillip K. Dick's works have been mined in depth by now and a few still remain. But what about Niven, Farmer, Clark and Moorcock? Sky Captain gives a bit of the flavor of Steam Punk as did The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen and even Equilibrium. It's time to tackle something like The Difference Engine by Gibson and Sterling. Or Neuromancer. Lastly, I'm not really acquainted with a book series I've seen at the Barnes and Noble which features a woman protagonist. The costuming for this was brought back by the navvie gear of the British fuel station team in Sky Captain. So there's lots out there which should sell to the moviegoing crowd. I just wish there were more of it. And, please, somebody, finish the Dune films!

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