\*Optimus Prime Voice\*

Never.

Never in my life.

Never did I believe that I’d have to fight my own kind.

*Godzilla* is truly the “*Man of Steel*” of this year creating a gaping ravine of a split in the Godzilla fandom. As a long-time Godzilla fan watching this movie was a dream come true as it was a more serious and by far the most realistic take on Godzilla ever made. Despite its accomplishments fellow fans and the average movie-goer feel differently about the film. I understand how the movie might not resonate with the average movie-goer but to hear so many complaints from Godzilla fans I had to ask them why?

The answer I got was baffling in so many ways. To help you understand how I’m feeling right now think back to reviewers of Friendship is Magic Season 3 and how they call out problems claiming it’s the worst season but seem to have selective memory about how Season 2 shares the same flaws yet is regarded to as the best season. The exact same problem is occurring with this film and the fanbase as they seem to hate the film for certain reasons but then don’t think back to hold previous Godzilla films guilty of doing the same thing they complained about.

I’ll be contesting these complaints point by point with ***NO SPOILERS*** attached. Forgive me for the switch in format.

***Contention #6***: “*\*\*\*\* was not as cool as it could be, also no heavy nuke moral?*

***Rebuttal***: “The \*\*\*\* was reminiscent of the first *Gojira* so why is this a problem? Nuclear negligence isn’t the primary focus but it’s definitely present you just have to pay attention.”

***Contention* #5**: “*The Ford Brody’s story is uninteresting and cliché.*”

***Rebuttal***: “Aaron Taylor Johnson’s performance, though not memorable, entirely serves the purpose provided to him. The story is meant to be told from a human’s perspective and this film succeeds. As an EOD in the military he has every reason to be where he is in the film without feeling contrived or poorly written. You might have seen this soldier’s story before, but you shouldn’t be surprised by how many military viewers loved this film because of it.”

***Contention #4***: “*Godzilla is not as focused on as he deserves.*”

***Rebuttal***: “Normally I’d mark the film down for this, but Godzilla being the center isn’t the point of this film. Ford Brody’s story isn’t the point of the film. Joe Brody’s struggle isn’t the point of the film. The point of this film was to establish the fictional universe of this new Godzilla cannon. This is a world about humanity dealing with these forces of nature that are now occupying this world and humanity struggles with trying to understand them. With what they’ve set up the film has a satisfactory ending as well as a perfect set up for more monsters for a sequel. Godzilla, though not the center, is still a hero and an essential cog in the machine that is this film.”

***Contention #3***: “*I came here for a monster-brawl-fest, not a Godzilla cock-tease.*”

***Rebuttal***: “1) Did we watch the same movie? I saw monster fights and they are some of the most well done and realistic monster fights ever done. If giant monsters fought in real life the fights portrayed in the movie are what it’d be like. 2) The film isn’t about the brawls, it’s about mankind’s struggle to cope and understand how to deal with these monsters in their world. This isn’t Pacific Rim, and it’s been established how much this film was made to be different from Pacific Rim to avoid US audiences from feeling a sense of redundancy in this film.”

***Contention #2***: “*The Joe Brody Debacle.”*

***Rebuttal***: “I’ll try to talk about this without spoiling anything. If I learned anything from *Iron Man 3* it’s not to build your hopes on what he trailer portrays. Watch the film, prepare for the worst, and embrace what made the film great. It personally didn’t bother me despite the fact that his performance was the best in the film.

***Contention #1***: “*Godzilla is hardly in the film.*”

***Rebuttal***: “As the #1 complaint by most fans I have to say this point is the most overblown and insignificant. I should explain myself, Cloverfield is a similar but lesser film guilty of not showing the monster much. I hated the teases in Cloverfield because so much is not shown despite having brief scenes of Clovey there. Godzilla on the other hand shouldn’t be hated for it. Why? Because every bit of screen time he has, large or minor, he can be seen in full clarity. Background or side shot you can always tell which monster is which, which monster is where, and what monster is doing what. Not to mention there are a few scenes that are absolutely incredible with the build-up and reveal. The most baffling part about this argument is that the 1954 *Gojira* does ***the exact same thing***, yet is regarded as the best of the Godzilla films. He’s in the movie a lot more than you think he is and has some of the best scenes in the entire film. I advise to put up with the teases because the payoff is worth it.”

I certainly enjoyed the film more than some, but luckily I don’t feel alone as there are enough positive reviews by professional critics and popular fans alike. It may not be a perfect film but it’s worth seeing for fans and non-fans alike with Godzilla having the most realistic portrayal of giant monsters ever done and amazing atmosphere that really sets the mood for some spectacular scenes. Where this film lacks in the heroic flashiness of Pacific Rim, it makes up for in scale and dramatic build up.