

## Document Citation

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At least fans of *Other Side* are not possessed of the messianic zeal that seems to have afflicted the *Star Warriors*, if my mail is any indication. Readers have reacted to my negative review like urban dog owners to poop scoops. *Star Wars* is apparently one of those Peter Pan/Mary Poppins balloons that requires the belief of *everyone* to stay aloft. Most of my attackers acknowledge all the weaknesses I mentioned (incidentally, I did not say I liked *Logan's Run*, only that as cartoon protagonists I preferred Michael York and Jenny Agutter to their counterparts in *Star*

*Wars*) yet insist that I cave in to the spell.

The fact that I am not an aficionado of science fiction does not mean that I am ignorant of the genre. I have seen many sci-fi films, and admired a few, though they are invariably not the ones the *Star Wars* fans seem to go for. Their favorites run to gee-whiz, pseudo-scientific fantasies, with a lot of special effects paraphernalia and zombie characters rather than the more idiosyncratically original and genuinely funny fables of my own Pantheon such as *The Fly*, *The Incredible Shrinking Man*, *Invasion of the Body Snatchers*, etc, etc.

As for those letterwriters who rebuked me on feminist grounds, we have here a paradigm of the feminist approach to movies: On the one hand, a writer complaining that the critic didn't sufficiently praise the Strong, Autonomous character of Princess Whatsername; on the other, that the critic

didn't express adequate outrage at the dearth of women among the inhabitants of the various planets. (There is, I guess, a lesson here, but let's leave it for another time and place.)

As for the gentler correspondent who reprimanded me for imposing my own (elitist, critical, etc.) ego on the film's mystical fable rather than submitting to its affirmation of Faith: I don't wish to puncture anyone's religious epiphanies. We need all the spiritual sustenance we can get, and I appreciate the yearning for faith or transcendental oneness or whatever in a Godless world. But *Star Wars*?