

Archaeology Is A Dangerous Job

...according to the movies, anyway. Not one but two well-known movie franchises have plots revolving around adventure-seeking archaeologists, Indiana Jones and The Mummy. I couldn't resist the hype of the [new Indiana Jones movie](#) and made that my first experience with Indiana Jones earlier this year. It was entertaining, though I still don't really get what all the fuss is about, although I'm told the latest (and last, supposedly) Indiana Jones movie is not the best one by far. So for date night last week, we decided to give the latest Mummy movie, [Tomb of the Dragon Emperor](#) a try, and again, I don't see what all the fuss is about. I did like it better than [Hellboy 2](#), but I really think that has more to do with how sick I was when I saw Hellboy 2 because I just wanted to leave the theater. My husband liked Hellboy 2 better. I'm comparing the two because they are somewhat similar movies; both action-fantasies involving the raising of ancient asian things. But anyway, back to the latest Mummy movie... Archaeology is dangerous in the movies!

[Brendan Fraser](#) plays an archaeologist who is hired to guard a precious artifact as it makes its journey to become a gift. There's a guy who is trying to raise this emperor from the dead; it has something to do with a curse. So the emperor is raised, and that's what I really liked about the movie. The emperor was made out of what looked like metal and fire, and I really enjoyed these special effects. When they were coupled with the emperor's voice, it made for a nice scary villain – I hope you appreciate the oxymoron of *nice scary villain* ☐ The one thing I didn't understand about the movie is why they threw in the random yetis. You'll have to see it to know what I'm talking about, I guess, but let's just say that there were some yetis all of a sudden and they didn't seem to have much

to do with the rest of the plot. As far as the plot goes, it wasn't really my kind of movie, but it was a \$3 matinee, buy one get one free, so for that price, I was thoroughly entertained. Three random notes I have are: 1. I didn't realize the Mummy movies take place in the past, in the 1940's. 2. Is it a requirement for sequels to have extremely cheesy references to the original movie? This movie is no exception. 3. Anyone visiting Universal Studios in Orlando, Florida should definitely try the Mummy ride. It is a thrill ride with special effects; a haunted house roller coaster, and it's unlike any other roller coaster I've ever experienced – totally awesome!

Snakes... Why Did They Have To Be Snakes

Since this is to be a blog concerning movie reviews, I suppose I should start reviewing more. On May 22, one of my favorite movie franchises will be resurrected with *Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull*. Let me take a moment to deal with the previous 3 movies in turn. All four movies contain two essential elements: Harrison Ford and director Steven Spielberg

Raiders of the Lost Ark was one of the top grossing films of 1981, if not THE top money maker. It is here we meet the great archaeologist and follow him around the globe on his quest to find the Lost Ark of the Covenant. Along with his female companion Marion Ravenwood (played by Karen Allen), Indy battles Nazis, a treacherous rival treasure hunter, and the bane of his existence... deadly snakes. However exhausted he may seem, Dr. Jones rises to each challenge with courage and

at times a bit of a swagger. In one scene, Indy shoots a menacing swordsman with one bullet fired from his gun. However, his favorite weapon of choice: his trusty bull whip.

Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom was released in 1984. The second installment was considerably darker than its predecessor. In fact, Spielberg had to lobby for a new movie rating in order to avoid getting an R-rating. Thus, the PG-13 rating was created. *Temple of Doom* concerns our intrepid adventurer searching for the lost sankara stones which were stolen from a small village in India. These rocks may have meant "fortune and glory" to Indy but to the village they meant their very livelihood. Some of the highlights in this epic are a speeding mine car chase, a rickety rope bridge, and a sumptuous feast consisting of snake surprise, beetles, eyeball soup, and for dessert...**Chilled Monkey Brains** (a tasty treat anyone would enjoy).

The third part of the saga, *Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade* (1989), had a lot to do with the background of the character: why archaeology, where his whip came from, and why the name Indiana. In a very brilliant piece of casting, Sean Connery was chosen to play Indy's father. Who else but the world's greatest superspy could play the world's greatest adventurer's father? After rescuing his father from Nazis, they set out to find the Holy Grail: the cup which held the blood of Christ at the Last Supper and gives everlasting life to anyone who drinks from it. In a flashback at the beginning of the movie, the late River Phoenix plays a young Indy on one of his teenage escapades.

Now, comes the next chapter. Very little is known about the new movie aside from the title and who knows what the purpose of the crystal skull is. Karen Allen is returning as Marion and Shia LaBeouf is cast as a young man who speculation suggests has a familial tie to the hero. Watch the trailer [here](#)