

The Thin Red Line (1999)

I guess it is to be said that the whole point of “The Thin Red Line” is the pointlessness of war, but, that being the case, then the film should’ve been more poignant towards the pointlessness so the pointlessness would not be wasted in a pointless effort. I mean, if you have a film about pointlessness then you should point out the pointlessness or you’ll lose the point of it all, like the film, but since the point of the film was pointlessness (I think) then the whole film was a pointless endeavor...in every sense of the word. Get my point?

I mean, I get the point of the film, how war has no meaning, and sucks and all, but the film didn’t need three friggin’ hours to make that point! I thought it was altogether clear after the first fruitless battle (about 45 minutes into the movie). An entire hour could have been cut out of the film with nothing lost. Well, let’s be honest, they could’ve cut out all three hours and lost nothing. Let’s just say the film dragged on.

“The Thin Red Line” seemed to be nothing more than a vehicle for celebrities to make cameos in and chalk up another screen credit for themselves, adding nothing to the film other than a memorable character, memorable for the fact that they are celebrities making a cameo, a sensation that will be all too familiar by the end of this film. Otherwise, most of “The Thin Red Line” is a philosophical poem with war as its backdrop, a few bits and pieces of gore dropped in, in order to keep the core audience in its place.

All in all, you should save your money and see “Saving Private Ryan” instead. First off, not only is there an actual plot to the film, but there are also many characters to enjoy for the very fact that they are characters with personality, and not just walk on cameos. Not to mention that it is one hell of a lot bloodier. A hell of a lot, from the get go. Sure, it’s still three hours long, but at least your ass isn’t sore an hour into it. On the Mark-O-Meter, “The Thin Red Line rates a very unhappy Mark.