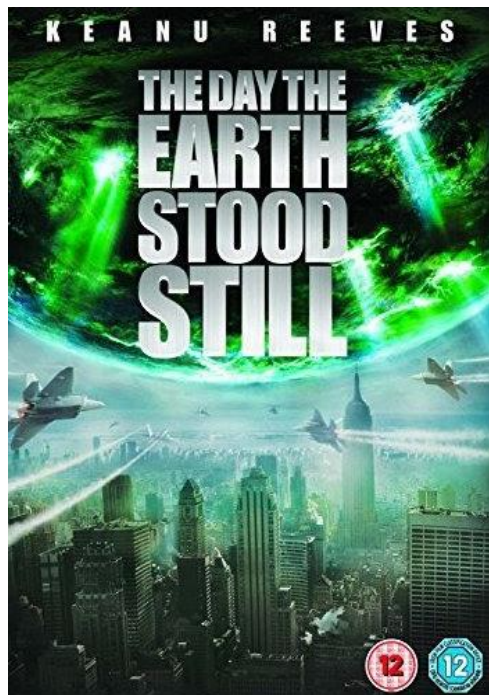


REF: 244

See also REF:119 Original  
(1951 Version)

# The Paragon Multimedia DVD, VHS Collection

Title: **The Day the Earth Stood Still** [Keanu Reeves 2008]



[1 Disc]

Library Image

ISBN: 5039036040945

## Information

Release Title: **The Day the Earth Stood Still** - 12th December 2008  
(United Kingdom)

Publication: The story line is based on a short story titled Farewell to the Master by American science fiction writer Harry Bates [1900-1981]. It was first published in the October 1940 issue of the magazine Astounding Science Fiction

Origin: United States, Canada

AKA: Also known as: D.T.E.S.S

Release date: United States – 12<sup>th</sup> December 2008 Canada 12.12.2008

Genres: Adventure, Drama, Sci-Fi

Disc Nos. 1

Certification: 12A

Duration: 1hr 44m

Region Code:

Region:

Product Code:

MPN:

EAN:

UPC:

Languages: English, Mandarin

Filming locations: White Rock, British Columbia, Canada

Sound mix: DTS, Dolby Digital, SDDS

Aspect Ratio: 2.35:1

*The Day the Earth Stood Still*



Theatrical release poster

Directed by	Scott Derrickson
Screenplay by	David Scarpa
Based on	<i>The Day the Earth Stood Still</i> by Edmund H. North <sup>[a]</sup>
Produced by	Erwin Stoff Gregory Goodman Paul Harris Boardman
Starring	Keanu Reeves Jennifer Connelly Jaden Smith John Cleese Jon Hamm Kathy Bates Robert Knepper
Cinematography	David Tattersall
Edited by	Wayne Wahrman
Music by	Tyler Bates
Production companies	20th Century Fox 3 Arts Entertainment Dune Entertainment
Distributed by	20th Century Fox
Release date	December 12, 2008
Running time	103 minutes <sup>[1]</sup>
Country	United States
Language	English
Budget	\$80 million <sup>[2]</sup>
Box office	\$233.1 million <sup>[2]</sup>

# 1 - Title: **The Day the Earth Stood Still** [Keanu Reeves 2008 version]

## Storyline

In 1928, a solitary mountaineer exploring the Karakoram mountains in India encounters a glowing sphere. He loses consciousness and when he wakes, the sphere is gone and there is a scar on his hand where a sample of his DNA has been taken.

In the present day, a rapidly moving object is detected beyond Jupiter's orbit and forecast to impact Manhattan. It is moving at 30,000 kilometres per second (1/10 of lightspeed), fast enough that its impact would destroy all life on Earth. The United States government hastily assembles a group of scientists, including Helen Benson and her friend Michael Granier, to develop a survival plan.

The scientists travel to New York City to await the object's collision with Earth. As it nears the planet, the object slows down just before impact. Revealed to be a large spherical spaceship, it lands gently in Central Park and is quickly surrounded by NYPD and heavily armed US military forces. An alien emerges and Helen moves forward to greet it; but amidst the confusion, the alien is shot. A gigantic humanoid robot appears and temporarily disables everything in the vicinity by emitting a high-pitched noise before the wounded alien voices the command "Klaatu barada nikto" to shut down the robot's defensive response.

The alien's exterior is found to be a bioengineered space suit, composed of placenta-like material covering a human-like being. After the bullet is extracted during surgery, the being quickly ages into Klaatu, who looks like the mountaineer from 1928. Klaatu informs Secretary of Defence Regina Jackson that he is a representative of a group of civilizations, sent to talk to the leaders of Earth about saving the planet from ecocide. When Jackson instead sends him to be interrogated, Klaatu escapes and reconnects with Helen and her stepson, Jacob, telling them that he must finish his mission to "save the Earth".

The presence of the sphere and other smaller spheres that begin to appear all over the world cause widespread panic. The military launches a drone attack on the Central Park sphere, but is thwarted by the robot. The military takes a weapons-free approach, cautiously enclosing the robot, soon nicknamed "GORT" (for Genetically Organized Robotic Technology), and transporting it to the Mount Weather underground facility in Virginia.

Klaatu meets with another alien, Mr. Wu, who has lived on Earth for 70 years. Wu tells Klaatu that he has found the human race to be destructive, stubborn, and unwilling to change, which matches Klaatu's experiences. Klaatu orders the smaller spheres to collect specimens of animal species, to preserve them for later reintroduction to the Earth. He clarifies for Helen that he means to save the Earth from destruction by humankind. When a New Jersey State Trooper attempts to take them into custody, Klaatu kills him and then promptly revives the officer, telling Helen and Jacob that he did this to simply disarm an obstacle to his mission.

Hoping to persuade Klaatu to change his mind about humanity, Helen takes him to the home of Professor Barnhardt, a Nobel Prize winner. They discuss how Klaatu's race went through drastic, collaborative evolution to prevent the demise of their planet. Barnhardt pleads that Earth is at the same precipice, and humanity should be given a chance to understand that it too must change. While the adults are talking, Jacob calls the authorities to come and arrest Klaatu.

While the military is examining GORT, the robot transforms into a swarm of winged insect-like nano-machines that self-replicate as they consume every man-made object in their path. The swarm soon devours the entire facility, emerging above ground to continue feeding.

The military captures Helen while Klaatu and Jacob escape on foot. As they travel, Klaatu learns more about humanity through Jacob. When Jacob contacts Helen and arranges to meet at his father's grave, the Secretary sends her to try to change Klaatu's mind. At the grave, Jacob is heartbroken that Klaatu cannot resurrect his long-dead father. As Helen and Jacob have a tear-filled reunion, Klaatu's cumulative observations of humans convince him to stop the swarm.

Granier drives them to the Central Park sphere, but the swarm has reached massive proportions. Klaatu trudges through the swarm to the sphere, touching it moments before his own body is consumed. The sphere deactivates the swarm, saving humanity, but also shutting down all electronics on Earth, per Klaatu's warning that there will be "a price to the [human] way of life." The giant sphere leaves the Earth.

Personal Note Review: A more updated version from the original version of 1951. The 2008 version slightly deviates and introduces more and modern special slant, such as the use of effects and possibly an improved around the edge storyline. Both versions can be seen separately with some similarities however; both are just as entertaining.

## Cast

Keanu Reeves as Klaatu, an alien messenger in human form. Reeves dislikes remakes but was impressed by the script, which he deemed a reimagining. He enjoyed the original film as a child and became fonder of it as an adult when he understood how relevant it was. Reeves acknowledged his Klaatu is "inverted" from the original, starting "sinister and tough" but becoming "more human", whereas the original was "more human than human" before revealing his "big stick" in his ending speech. He compared the remake's Klaatu to the wrathful God who floods the world in the Old Testament, but is gentle and forgiving by the time of the New Testament. He spent many weeks revising the script, trying to make Klaatu's transition from alien in human form to one who appreciates their emotions and beliefs subtle and nuanced. Derrickson, the director, said that although Reeves would not use actions "that are highly unusual or highly quirky," he nevertheless "keeps you aware of the fact that this being you're walking through this movie with is not a human being". At Reeves' insistence, the line "Klaatu barada nikto" was added to the script after initially being omitted. The line was recorded many times, and it was decided to combine two recordings: one where Reeves said it normally and a reversed version where he said the line backward, creating an "alien" effect.

Jennifer Connelly as Helen Benson, an astrobiologist at Princeton University, who is recruited by the government to study Klaatu. Connelly was Derrickson's first choice for the part. She is a fan of the original film and felt Patricia Neal's original portrayal of Helen was "fabulous," but trusted the filmmakers with their reinterpretation of the story and of Helen, who was a secretary in the original. Connelly emphasized that Helen is amazed when she meets Klaatu, as she never believed she would encounter a sentient alien like him after speculating on extraterrestrial life for so long. Connelly was dedicated to understanding her scientific jargon, with Seth Shostak stating she did "everything short of writing a NASA grant application."

Jaden Smith as Jacob Benson, Helen's eight-year-old stepson. Jacob replaces the character of Bobby (Billy Gray) in the original, and his relationship with Helen was written as a microcosm of how Klaatu comes to see humanity—the alien sees their cold and distant relationship as normal human behaviour, and their reconciliation forces him to change his mind. Smith said he found Jacob difficult to play because he felt the character "opposite" to his personality. Smith had met Reeves before on the set of the Matrix sequels, which featured his mother, Jada Pinkett-Smith.

John Cleese as Professor Karl Barnhardt, a Nobel Prize-winning physicist, who specializes in the evolutionary basis of altruism. Helen takes Klaatu to him to further change his mind. The role was the most difficult to cast, and eventually the filmmakers decided to approach Cleese, noting "Who would you rather make the argument [to Klaatu] for mankind than John Cleese?" Stoff, a producer, had met Cleese a few times beforehand and had noted his intellect. The actor was surprised the filmmakers were interested in him, and decided playing a dramatic role would be easier than to play a comedic one at his age. He was often reminded to speed up his dialogue so that Reeves would not appear in synchronicity with normal human speech patterns. Cleese said he is not interested in extraterrestrial life because he often philosophizes about the purpose of life and why humans are distracted by trivial matters. Cleese spoke about portraying abilities outside his own experience in the scene in which Klaatu corrects a complex mathematical formula Barnhardt has written on a blackboard: "The trouble is, I had to be able to write the equation, because Barnhardt has been working on it for 60 years. I learned to carefully copy things down that mean nothing to me at all. In *A Fish Called Wanda*, I spoke a lot of Russian without having any idea what it means." The crew enjoyed working with Cleese and were sad when he finished filming his part.

Jon Hamm as Michael Granier, a NASA official, who recruits Helen into his scientific team investigating Klaatu. Granier is fascinated by Klaatu, but is torn between his official obligation to detain the alien and protect his country. Hamm acknowledged science fiction was a niche genre when the original film was made, and that it used science fiction to make topical issues more approachable. Hamm had the same feelings for this remake. Originally, Hamm's character was French and named Michel. Although he is interested in math and science, Hamm found his technical dialogue difficult and had to film his lines repeatedly.

Kathy Bates as Regina Jackson, the United States Secretary of Defence. Bates had only two weeks to film her scenes, so she often requested Derrickson act out her lines so she would directly understand his aims for her dialogue, rather than interpret vague directions.

Kyle Chandler as John Driscoll

Robert Knepper as Colonel Addelman

James Hong as Mr. Wu, an alien living in the United States

John Rothman as Dr. Myron

Brandon T. Jackson as Target TechWiki

**Parental Guidance**

**Certification**

Argentina:13 Australia:M Brazil:10 Canada:G (Québec) Czechia:12 Finland:K-11 France:Tous publics Germany:12 Hong Kong:IIA India:U Ireland:12A Israel:ALL Italy:T Japan:PG-12 Malaysia:U Mexico:B Netherlands:12 New Zealand:M Norway:11 (2008, cinema rating) Peru:Apt Philippines:PG-13 (MTRCB) Poland:12 (self-applied) Portugal:M/12 Singapore:PG Singapore:PG13 (Netflix) South Africa:10 (V) South Korea:12 Spain:7 Sweden:11 Switzerland:12 (canton of Geneva) Switzerland:12 (canton of Vaud) Taiwan:GP Turkey:13+ (self-applied) United Kingdom:12A United Kingdom:12 (DVD rating) United States:PG-13 (certificate #44866)

**Sex & Nudity** – None, **Violence & Gore**- Moderate, **Profanity**- None, **Alcohol, drugs & smoking**- None, **Frightening & Intense Scenes** - Mild

MPAA Rated PG-13 for some sci-fi disaster images and violence

Keanu R. Menu



Main Menu

