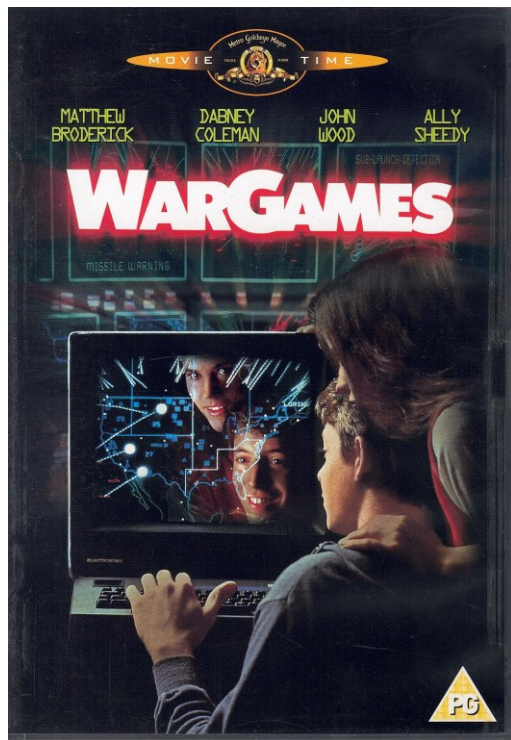


The Paragon Multimedia DVD, VHS Collection

Title: **War Games**



Library Image



ISBN:5050070001839

Information

Release **Title:** War Games 18th August 1983 (United Kingdom)

From:

AKA:

Release date: 3rd June 1983

Origin: United States

Genres: Action, Drama, Sci-Fi, Thriller

Disc Nos. - 1

Certification: PG

Duration: 1h 54m

Region Code:

Region: 2

Product Code:

MPN:

EAN:

UPC:

Languages: English

Filming locations: Anderson Island, Washington, USA (Goose Island scenes)

Sound mix: Dolby Digital

Colour: PAL

Aspect Ratio: 1.85:1

Theatrical release poster

Directed by	John Badham Martin Brest (uncredited) ^[1]
Written by	Lawrence Lasker Walter F. Parkes
Produced by	Leonard Goldberg Richard Hashimoto Harold Schneider Bruce McNall
Starring	Matthew Broderick Dabney Coleman John Wood Ally Sheedy
Cinematography	William A. Fraker
Edited by	Tom Rolf
Music by	Arthur B. Rubinstein
Production companies	United Artists Sherwood Productions
Distributed by	MGM/UA Entertainment Company (United States) United International Pictures (international)
Release dates	May 7, 1983 (Cannes) June 3, 1983 (United States)
Running time	114 minutes
Country	United States
Language	English
Budget	\$12 million
Box office	\$124.6 million

Storyline

During a surprise nuclear attack drill, many United States Air Force Strategic Missile Wing controllers prove unwilling to turn the keys required to launch a missile strike. Such refusals convince John McKittrick and other NORAD systems engineers that missile launch control centres must be automated, without human intervention. Control is given to a NORAD supercomputer known as WOPR (War Operation Plan Response, pronounced "whopper"), programmed to continuously run war simulations and learn over time.

David Lightman, a bright but unmotivated Seattle high school student and hacker, uses his IMSAI 8080 computer to access the school district's computer system and change his grades. He does the same for his friend and classmate Jennifer Mack. Later, while war dialling numbers in Sunnyvale, California, to find a computer game company, he connects with a system that does not identify itself. Asking for games, he finds a list including chess, checkers, backgammon, and poker, along with titles such as "Theaterwide Biotoxic and Chemical Warfare" and "Global Thermonuclear War", but cannot proceed further. Two hacker friends explain the concept of a backdoor password and suggest tracking down the Falken referenced in "Falken's Maze", the first game listed. David discovers that Stephen Falken was an early artificial-intelligence researcher, and guesses correctly that the name of Falken's deceased son (Joshua) is the password.

Unaware that the Sunnyvale phone number connects to WOPR at the Cheyenne Mountain Complex, David initiates a game of Global Thermonuclear War, playing as the Soviet Union while targeting American cities. The computer starts a simulation that briefly convinces NORAD military personnel that actual Soviet nuclear missiles are inbound. While they defuse the situation, WOPR nonetheless continues the simulation to trigger the scenario and win the game, as it does not understand the difference between reality and simulation. It continuously feeds false data such as Soviet bomber incursions and submarine deployments to NORAD, pushing them to increase the DEFCON level toward a retaliation that will start World War III.

David learns the true nature of his actions from a news broadcast, and FBI special agents arrest him and take him to NORAD. He realizes that WOPR is behind the NORAD alerts, but he fails to convince McKittrick (who believes David is working for the Soviets) and is charged with espionage. David escapes NORAD by joining a tourist group and, with Jennifer's help, travels to the Oregon island where Falken lives under the alias "Robert Hume". David and Jennifer find that Falken has become despondent, believing that nuclear war is inevitable and as futile as a game of tic-tac-toe between two experienced players. The teenagers convince Falken that he should return to NORAD to stop WOPR.

WOPR stages a massive Soviet first strike with hundreds of missiles, submarines, and bombers. Believing the attack to be genuine, NORAD prepares to retaliate. Falken, David, and Jennifer convince military officials to cancel the second strike and ride out the attack. When the targeted American bases report back unharmed, NORAD prepares to cancel the retaliatory second strike. WOPR tries to launch the missiles itself using a brute-force attack to obtain the launch codes. Without humans in the control centres as a safeguard using the two-man rule, the computer will trigger a mass launch. All attempts to log in and order WOPR to cancel the countdown fail. Disconnecting the computer is discussed and dismissed, as a failsafe will launch all weapons if the computer is disabled, acting like a fail-deadly ignition to World War III.

Falken and David direct the computer to play tic-tac-toe against itself. This results in a long string of draws, forcing the computer to learn the concept of futility and no-win scenarios. WOPR obtains the launch codes, but before launching, it cycles through all the nuclear war scenarios it has devised, finding that they all result in draws as well. Having discovered the concept of mutual assured destruction ("WINNER: NONE"), the computer tells Falken it has concluded that nuclear war is "a strange game" in which "the only winning move is not to play." WOPR relinquishes control of NORAD and the missiles and offers to play "a nice game of chess".

Cast

Matthew Broderick as David Lightman

Dabney Coleman as Dr. John McKittrick

John Wood as Stephen Falken and the voice of WOPR

Ally Sheedy as Jennifer Mack

Barry Corbin as General Jack Beringer

Juanin Clay as Patricia Healy
Dennis Lipscomb as Lyle Watson
Kent Williams as Arthur Cabot
Joe Dorsey as Colonel Joe Conley
Michael Ensign as Beringer's Assistant
William Bogert as Mr. Lightman
Susan Davis as Mrs. Lightman
Irving Metzman as Paul Richter
John Spencer as Captain Jerry Lawson
Michael Madsen as Lieutenant Steve Phelps
Alan Blumenfeld as Mr. Liggett
James Tolkan as Mr. Wigan
Maury Chaykin as Jim Sting
Eddie Deezen as Malvin

Parents Guide

Certification

Argentina:Atp Australia:PG Australia:NRC (original rating) Brazil:12 Canada:PG (Ontario) Denmark:A Finland:K-12
France:Tous publics Germany:12 Iceland:L India:U Ireland:PG Italy:T Japan:G Malaysia:U Netherlands:AL New
Zealand:PG Norway:11 (iTunes rating) Norway:12 (1983, cinema rating) Peru:Apt Poland:7 (self-applied) Portugal:M/12
Singapore:PG South Africa:A South Korea:All Spain:A Sweden:11 United Kingdom:PG (original rating) United Kingdom:12
(2013, re-rating) United States:TV-PG United States:PG (certificate #27008) United Arab Emirates:PG-13 (self-applied) West
Germany:12

Sex & Nudity - None **Violence & Gore** – None **Profanity** – Mild **Alcohol, Drugs & Smoking** – Mild **Frightening & Intense
Scenes** - Mild

