

## Backdraft ★★★

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**Year of Release:** 1991

Review by Randy Parker

**Country:** USA

**Verdict:** See It

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Director Ron Howard's ode to fire fighters is a technical wonder, worthwhile for the best fire scenes ever captured on film, but the story line and characters are frustratingly underdeveloped. The exhilarating fire fighting sequences dominate the film and extinguish any chance for the actors to shine through, though Donald Sutherland

stands out as an imprisoned arsonist who helps solve the mystery—a la Anthony Hopkins in *Silence of the Lambs*. The cast list (which includes Kurt Russell, William Baldwin, Robert De Niro, and Jennifer Jason Leigh) may be impressive, but the real star of *Backdraft* is the fire.

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