

Dragnet ★★★½

Year of Release: 1987

Review by Randy Parker

Country: USA

Verdict: See It

Dragnet is a comedy with so much going for it that I can overlook its shortcomings and strongly recommend it as diverting summer entertainment. The performances in *Dragnet* are a treat. Dan Aykroyd is simply amazing as Sergeant Joe Friday, the nephew of the famous detective from the long-running TV series. Aykroyd, in the performance of his career, is at the top of his form; the brilliance of his impersonation was clear to me even though I am not a fan of, nor particularly familiar with, the "Dragnet" TV series. As Aykroyd's young partner, Tom Hanks is, as usual, charming and irresistibly appealing. Dabney Coleman, Christopher Lee, and the rest of the cast

all give fine performances as well. *Dragnet's* script (co-written by Aykroyd) is witty and imaginative, and the characters are well-defined.

Dragnet falls short in only one area: its plot. Suffering from the curse of many big budget summer movies, *Dragnet* has a totally overblown, larger-than-life, and inappropriate story line. The movie's premise is better suited to an Indiana Jones or James Bond film than to a crime story parody. *Dragnet's* extravagant plot, however, is its only significant flaw, a flaw which is completely overshadowed by the movie's sharp performances, writing, and humor.

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