SOFTWARE & TECH

Amazon Women On The Moon

PUBLISHED
November 25, 2026

REFERENCE
#1795582593241971

Rediscovering a Cult Classic: The Enduring Appeal of Amazon Women On The Moon

In the vast landscape of 1980s comedy, few films dared to be as audaciously strange and unapologetically chaotic as **Amazon Women On The Moon**. Released in 1987, this satirical sketch comedy film remains one of the most delightfully bizarre artifacts of its era. Directed by a powerhouse trio—Joe Dante, Carl Gottlieb, Peter Horton, and John Landis—the movie is a loving yet merciless parody of low-budget science fiction television and the golden age of late-night programming. For those who have never experienced its whirlwind of disjointed humor, **Amazon Women On The Moon** is not so much a single story as it is a frantic channel-surfing session through a television set possessed by a mischievous ghost. It is a film that rewards repeated viewings, offering new absurdities with every watch, and its influence can still be felt in modern comedy anthologies and internet meme culture.

The Concept: A Love Letter to Bad Television

The central premise of **Amazon Women On The Moon** is ingeniously simple. The film is structured as a series of vignettes, interrupted by fake commercials, movie trailers, and public service announcements, all supposedly airing on a fictional television station. The framing device is a cheesy 1950s-style science fiction movie of the same name, which viewers are supposedly watching on a late-night broadcast. As this terrible movie plays, the station keeps cutting to other content, creating a fragmented viewing experience that mirrors the days before streaming, when viewers were at the mercy of whatever the network decided to air.

This structure allowed the directors to explore a wide range of comedic styles, from slapstick and gross-out humor to sharp social satire and surreal non-sequiturs. The film openly mocks the absurdity of consumer culture, the desperation of low-budget filmmaking, and the strange, hypnotic power of television itself. It is a meta-commentary on the medium, a comedy about comedy, and a time capsule of late 1980s pop culture, all rolled into one disjointed package.

The Star-Studded Cast of Amazon Women On The Moon

One of the most remarkable aspects of **Amazon Women On The Moon** is its incredible ensemble cast. The film managed to attract a staggering number of comedic legends and rising stars, many of whom were at the peak of their powers or just beginning their careers. This deep bench of talent is one of the primary reasons the film has remained so watchable. When one sketch fails to land, another one immediately begins with a completely different, equally talented performer.

Among the most memorable appearances are Rosanna Arquette, Ralph Bellamy, Carrie Fisher, Griffin Dunne, Steve Forrest, Ed Begley Jr., Michelle Pfeiffer, Peter Horton, David Alan Grier, Arsenio Hall, Phil Hartman, B.B. King, and even a young Steve Guttenberg. The film also features a pre-*Seinfeld* Jerry Seinfeld in one of his

early film roles. The diversity of talent is staggering, and the willingness of these actors to appear in such a deliberately ridiculous project speaks to the fun atmosphere of the production. Carrie Fisher, in particular, shines in a sketch about her character's disastrous date, a segment that feels like a precursor to the more autobiographical work she would later produce.

Breaking Down the Best Sketches of Amazon Women On The Moon

While the quality of sketches in **Amazon Women On The Moon** varies—as is the nature of any anthology—several segments have become iconic in their own right. These sketches are often referenced in discussions of 1980s comedy and remain the highlights of the film.

The "Blacks Without Soul" Infomercial

Perhaps the most famous and controversial sketch in the film is the fake commercial for "**Blacks Without Soul** ." This parody of public service announcements and self-help programs features a white man who has lost his soul and needs to buy a Black man's soul to be cool. The sketch is a sharp, absurdist takedown of racism and cultural appropriation. It is laugh-out-loud funny precisely because it is so uncomfortable and ridiculous, forcing the audience to confront the absurdity of prejudice. It remains a talking point to this day, a testament to the film's willingness to push boundaries.

The "Video Date" Segment

Starring Carrie Fisher and Griffin Dunne, this sketch follows a couple on a disastrous first date. The humor is painfully relatable, focusing on awkward conversation, misplaced expectations, and the sheer terror of trying to connect with someone new. Fisher, drawing on her own wit, delivers deadpan lines that cut to the heart of modern dating anxieties. It is a quieter, more character-driven piece compared to the broader sketches, and it showcases a different kind of comedy within the film.

The "Son of the Invisible Man" Trailer

A fake movie trailer for a ridiculous sequel concept, "Son of the Invisible Man" features Ed Begley Jr. as the son of the original Invisible Man. The twist? He is only invisible when he wears clothes and visible when he is naked. This leads to a series of absurd sight gags and puns. The trailer perfectly captures the desperation of 1950s film studios trying to cash in on successful franchises with increasingly ludicrous premises. It is a masterclass in parodying the trailer format itself.

The "Amazon Women On The Moon" Movie Itself

The framing device—the actual "film" titled **Amazon Women On The Moon** —is a glorious mess. Starring Sybil Danning as the leader of a tribe of Amazon women living on the moon, the plot is nonsensical, the special effects are laughable, and the acting is wooden. This segment is the film's spine, providing the constant interruption that defines the experience. It lovingly reproduces the look and feel of B-movies like *Cat-Women of the Moon*(1953), complete with terrible science, skimpy costumes, and stilted dialogue. For fans of bad cinema, this framing device is a treasure.

Production and Directorial Vision

The production history of **Amazon Women On The Moon** is as chaotic as the film itself. John Landis, fresh off the success of *Trading Places* and *Three Amigos*, collaborated with Joe Dante, Carl Gottlieb, and Peter Horton to create a film that was essentially an extended sketch comedy show. The project was born out of a desire to make an anthology film in the vein of *The Kentucky Fried Movie* (1977), which Landis had also worked on. The difference is that **Amazon Women On The Moon** had a significantly larger budget and a more polished (though still deliberately cheesy) aesthetic.

Each director brought a unique sensibility to their segments. Joe Dante, known for his love of pop culture and B-

Gremlins, handled many of the horror and sci-fi parodies. John Landis contributed the broader, more satirical sketches. This collaborative approach resulted in a film that feels like a variety show where every host has a different sense of humor. The clash of styles is not always seamless, but it is almost always interesting. The film was shot quickly and with a sense of playful experimentation, and that energy is palpable on screen.

Cultural Impact and Legacy of Amazon Women On The Moon

Upon its release, **Amazon Women On The Moon** received mixed reviews and was only a modest box office success. However, like many cult films, it found a second life on home video. The rise of VHS and cable television allowed the film to reach a wider audience who appreciated its irreverent, anything-goes approach. It became a staple of late-night viewing for teenagers and college students in the late 1980s and early 1990s.

The film's influence can be seen in later television shows like *The Simpsons*, *Family Guy*, and especially *The State* and *Mr. Show*, which also relied on rapid-fire sketch comedy and surreal transitions. The concept of interrupting a main narrative with tangents and fake commercials is now a common trope in online video content, from YouTube to TikTok. In many ways, **Amazon Women On The Moon** was ahead of its time, anticipating the fragmented, hyperactive viewing habits of the internet age. The film also remains a favorite among film buffs and comedy historians for its unique place in the careers of its many famous cast members.

Why Amazon Women On The Moon Still Matters Today

In an era of streaming services and highly targeted content, **Amazon Women On The Moon** feels refreshingly anarchic. It is a film that refuses to be contained by a single genre, mood, or running time. It is messy, inconsistent, and often tasteless, but it is also brave, inventive, and genuinely funny. The film serves as a reminder of a time when comedians were willing to take big risks simply for the joy of making people laugh.

Furthermore, the film's satire of television and consumer culture remains relevant. The fake commercials for useless products and absurd services are not far removed from the advertising bombardment we face today. The film's critique of Hollywood's obsession with sequels and reboots feels prophetic. The "Son of the Invisible Man" trailer, for example, perfectly skewers the kind of lazy franchise extension that still dominates movie theaters. In this sense, **Amazon Women On The Moon** is not just a piece of 1980s nostalgia; it is a timeless commentary on the entertainment industry's endless cycle of recycling and repackaging.

Final Thoughts on Amazon Women On The Moon

Amazon Women On The Moon is not for everyone. Its scattershot structure, dated references, and intentionally cheap aesthetic can be off-putting to viewers accustomed to polished, linear storytelling. However, for those willing to surrender to its chaotic rhythm, it offers a uniquely rewarding experience. It is a comedy film that celebrates the joy of bad movies, the absurdity of consumerism, and the sheer weirdness of being alive in the television age. It is a time capsule, a comedy textbook, and a party, all wrapped up in a cheap space suit.

Whether you are a longtime fan or a curious newcomer, revisiting **Amazon Women On The Moon** offers a delightful trip back to a more playful era of filmmaking. It stands as a testament to the power of collaboration, the magic of a great cast, and the simple, enduring pleasure of a well-executed joke, even if that joke is buried within a fake commercial for a product that no one could ever need. So, grab some popcorn, tune into the fictional channel, and prepare for a wild ride. Just don't expect the plot to make sense—that is entirely the point.

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