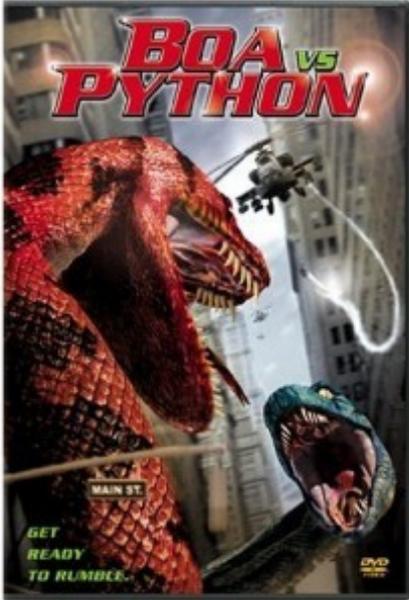


Retro Review: Boa vs. Python

POSTED BY KIMBERLY LYNN WORKMAN ON SEPTEMBER - 1 - 2010



Boa vs. Python was a Sci-Fi channel original movie that came out in 2004, starring David Hewlett in the lead role of herpetologist Emmett. In the six years since its original airing, it has become a cult classic by both Stargate fans and B-movie fans alike.

The premise is what you'd expect from a Sci-Fi original. A businessman decides he wants to set up a live hunting game for his fellow rich, yet mentally questionable compatriots. The animal, this time, is an 80-foot python that he is bringing into the United States for the sole purpose of killing it. And what always happens in these instances? Yes, it escaped, and it's killing people in its path. Now it's up to the FBI to help capture the massive beast before it can kill again.

This is where the premise goes even more outlandish. How do you capture an 80-foot python? You find Betty, the 70-foot boa constrictor, and set her loose on the unsuspecting prey. Pause for a moment...what? Okay, okay, just go with it. More importantly, Betty has been raised by Emmett, played by David Hewlett. He's very protective of his snake and he's bonded with her over the years. Hey, every boy needs a pet.

As the movie progresses, you get to find out how utterly insane the members of the hunting party are, what family tragedy led to Emmett becoming a herpetologist, and the most uncomfortable snake on human action that I've ever witnessed. Why did David Hewlett take this role? They paid him a lot of money (and it's certainly better than Darklight, let's not even talk about that one).

And despite all of the seemingly horrible plot, or more importantly because of it, I adore this movie so very much. When I met Hewlett at a 2008 convention my friends and I mentioned that we stayed up the night before to watch Boa vs. Python. He quickly apologized that he subjected us to wasting two hours of our lives. No, no, Mr. Hewlett, you don't understand. I've dedicated over twelve hours of my life to this movie and I will dedicate more. Anytime it re-runs on television, I stop what I'm doing and watch it, even though I already own the DVD. Why? Because this is B-movie gold. Snake vs. snake, the ultimate showdown!