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Spectral

Spectral is an American military science fiction action film directed by Nic Mathieu. The screenplay was written by Ian Fried, Mathieu and George Nolfi from a screen story by Fried. The film stars James Badge Dale, Max Martini, Emily Mortimer, and Bruce Greenwood. The film was released on December 9, 2016 on Netflix.^[4]

Contents

- Plot
- Cast
- Production
 - Film production
- Release
 - Critical reception
- References
- External links

Plot

DARPA researcher Dr. Mark Clyne flies out to Moldova, the current deployment location of the US military in the ongoing Moldovan War, to be consulted on one of his creations, a line of hyperspectral imaging goggles that have been issued to troops there. After arriving at a US military air base on the outskirts of Chişinău, he meets with General Orland and CIA officer Fran Madison. They show him footage captured by the troops' goggles of a mysterious, translucent, humanoid apparition that kills almost instantaneously. Knowing it is not interference, Orland wants Clyne's expert opinion before forwarding the findings and footage to his superiors. Conversely, Madison believes the sightings to be members of the insurgency wearing an advanced form of active camouflage and has orders from her superiors to retrieve a sample.

<i>Spectral</i>	
	
Directed by	Nic Mathieu
Produced by	Jillian Share
Screenplay by	George Nolfi Jamie Moss (uncredited) John Gatins (uncredited)
Story by	Ian Fried Nic Mathieu
Starring	James Badge Dale Max Martini Emily Mortimer Bruce Greenwood
Music by	Junkie XL ^[1]
Cinematography	Bojan Bazelli
Edited by	Jason Ballantine
Production company	Legendary Pictures
Distributed by	Netflix
Release date	December 9, 2016 (worldwide)
Running time	107 minutes ^[2]

To get a clearer shot of the anomalies and identify them, both Clyne and Madison accompany a team of Delta Force operators into the field to find Utah team that went missing the day before. To capture a better image of the apparitions, Clyne mounts a larger, more powerful version of the hyperspectral

Country	United States
Language	English
Budget	\$70 million ^[3]

camera on top of one of the armored personnel carriers. Upon arriving at the location, they discover members of the Utah team dead along with the insurgents. They are ambushed by the apparitions, who, being impervious to small arms fire and explosives, inflict heavy casualties before the soldiers retreat. When landmines render their vehicles inoperable, the group takes cover in an abandoned factory where they find two children barricaded inside. The apparitions attempt to follow them but are stopped by a barrier of iron shavings. The children share that their father scattered the shavings to protect his children before he was killed. The survivors make contact with the air base and set up a rendezvous. Clyne modifies the hyperspectral camera into a large searchlight, which enables the group to see the apparitions without the need for goggles. Clyne points out the numerous crates of iron shavings lying around the factory that the unit uses to turn their grenades into IEDs laced with iron shavings to give them a fighting chance. Fortified with these new weapons, the group sets out for the rendezvous point about a half-mile away from the factory. About an hour before the extraction time the apparitions find a way to cross the barrier - forcing the survivors to leave the factory.

After exiting the factory, the apparitions chase the group who use the iron explosives to slow them down. Reinforcements and a helicopter evac join them at the rendezvous point, a large abandoned plaza. However, they are ambushed by the apparitions and are barely able to escape as the figures proceed to destroy the tanks and kill the soldiers sent as backup. Once safely in the air, they receive word from Orland that the apparitions have overrun the air base so they are redirected to a civilian bunker controlled by the allied Moldovan military. Thinking over what he learned from the young girl they had found, Clyne deduces the apparitions are likely man-made and are made of Bose-Einstein condensate, which explains their ability to move through walls, freeze people to death, and the inability to pass through iron shavings and ceramic materials (hence their inability to enter tanks' ceramic armor). Working overnight with Orland and surviving military engineers, he constructs several makeshift pulse weapons capable of breaking down the condensate. The next morning, the remaining American soldiers head to the Masarov power plant in the center of the city, as Clyne believes it is the only facility capable of generating the power needed to create the condensate.

While the soldiers mount an offensive distraction on the roof of the plant, Clyne and Madison descend down to a recently overrun laboratory inside. They deduce that scientists, working in weapons research for the former regime, were scanning humans on a molecular level and using advanced 3D printing to replicate them in condensate form. The human test subjects' brains and central nervous systems were then removed and hooked up to a central machine which keeps the condensate copies (or "apparitions") alive. With the battle above threatening to release the remaining condensates, Clyne finally finishes activation of the failsafe system, which deactivates the condensate apparitions. Believing that whatever level of consciousness remaining is in pain, he unplugs the human remains from the machine, finally giving them peace.

With the apparitions gone, the US and allied Moldovan military continue their work of taking control of the city from the insurgents. A Department of Defense extraction team is to be sent back to the plant with the

Delta Force operators to take the machinery apart and potentially use it for their own purposes. Saying goodbye to Madison and General Orland, Clyne boards an aircraft to be taken back home to Virginia.

Cast

- James Badge Dale as Clyne, a DARPA scientist
- Emily Mortimer as Fran, a CIA officer who runs Delta Force operations in Moldova's war torn capital
- Max Martini as Major Sessions, the leader of the Delta Force team
- Bruce Greenwood as General Orland, the leader of US Army troops deployed to fight in the Moldovan War
- Clayne Crawford as Sgt. Toll
- Gonzalo Menendez as Cabrera
- Ursula Parker as Sari, a young Moldovan girl
- Louis Ozawa Changchien as Sgt. Chen
- Cory Hardrict as Alessio
- Aaron Serban as Bogdan
- Dylan Smith as Talbot
- Jimmy Akingbola as McFadden
- Ryan Robbins as Comstock
- Stephen Root as Dr. Mindala
- Philip Bulcock as Sgt. Davis
- Royce Pierreson as Diaz
- Declan Hannigan as Hayden
- Mark O'Neal as Lewis
- Michael Bodie as Efrem

Production

During the summer of 2014, Legendary Pictures and Universal Pictures announced that commercials director Nic Mathieu would make his feature debut directing Fried's screenplay for the supernatural action film *Spectral* which would star James Badge Dale, Max Martini, Bruce Greenwood and Emily Mortimer. Described as a supernatural *Black Hawk Down*, *Spectral* centers on a special-ops team dispatched to fight supernatural beings who have taken over a European city.^{[5][6][7][8]}

Ian Fried wrote the original script, which was re-written by Mathieu, Jamie Moss, John Gatins and George Nolfi, who received sole screenwriting credit, with Mathieu and Fried receiving story credit.^[9]

Film production

Film production began on August 7, 2014.^[10] Shooting started on August 28, 2014 in various streets and buildings in Budapest, Hungary, relying extensively on practical effects and locations for an authentic, gritty atmosphere. Filming was completed in August 2015. Peter Jackson's Weta Workshop produced the futuristic weapons and Weta Digital created the visual effects for the film.^[4] Universal Pictures anticipated a release in August 2016 but decided against this and transferred the rights to Netflix which released it on December 9,

2016.^[11]

Release

Initially, Universal Pictures was going to distribute the film, setting an August 12, 2016 release date for the film.^[12] In June 2016, the film was pulled from the schedule.^[13] Netflix later acquired distribution rights to the film and released the film worldwide on December 9, 2016.^{[14][15][16]}

On February 1, 2017, Netflix released a prequel comic of the movie called *Spectral: Ghosts of War* made available digitally through the website ComiXology.^{[17][18]}

Critical reception

Rotten Tomatoes gives the film an approval rating of 75% based on 8 reviews, with an average rating of 5.7/10.^[19]

Writing for *The Verge*, Tasha Robinson summarises "It's understandable that Netflix jumped at the chance to grab what was intended as a big-screen, large-scale thriller. But *Spectral* winds up feeling like a much smaller film, like something that was intended for a casual streaming experience all along."^[20]


Will Ashton of *We Got This Covered* writes "Despite some impressive visuals and a few good supporting actors, Netflix's *Spectral* fails to leave an impact."^[21]

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External links

- *Spectral* (<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt2106651/>) on IMDb 
 - *Spectral* (<https://www.netflix.com/title/80098200>) on Netflix
 - *Spectral* (<https://www.rottentomatoes.com/m/spectral>) at Rotten Tomatoes
 - *Spectral* (<https://www.metacritic.com/movie/spectral>) at Metacritic
 - *Spectral* (<https://www.allmovie.com/movie/v605434>) at AllMovie
 - *Spectral* (<https://movie.douban.com/subject/20514871/>) at Douban (in Chinese)
 - *Spectral* (<https://www.boxofficemojo.com/movies/?id=spectral.htm>) at Box Office Mojo
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