

## Film Review: Adrien Brody's 'Predators' Unmemorably Lulls Through the Expected Motions

Submitted by [HollywoodChicago.com](http://www.hollywoodchicago.com) [1] on July 12, 2010 - 12:18am

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CHICAGO – Good films deliver on their promise. *Great* films up the ante even more. In this version of the long “Predators” franchise from director Nimrod Antal (“Control,” “Armored,” “Vacancy”) and more-known producer Robert Rodriguez (“Grindhouse,” “Sin City”), we merely see more of the same: just enough to get us by but not nearly enough to make us care.



The curiously cast film stars the I'm-trying-to-be-badass Brody as he attempts to fill the more authentic shoes of Arnold Schwarzenegger from 1987's “Predator”.

The battle-hardened and mercenary-turned Brody is self-elected as the team leader of the humans as they wage war against alien predators out of necessity. While the humans are fighting for their lives, the predators are simply butchering for sport. The aliens merely want to improve their abilities as the harbringers of death and they use humans as their guinea pigs.



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The film's most effective storytelling element blows its wad early on. Brody and the other trained killers are parachuted onto an alien planet in a state of frenzy and confusion. Though it's not the first time this franchise has dangled such a plot carrot as a way to successfully build suspense (think Vietnam confusion in an earlier film), the payoff isn't sustained throughout the story.

Once the big reveal is blown courtesy of a relative cameo by Laurence Fishburne, the rest of the story delivers exactly what you've seen before and nothing more. While the film isn't an epic fail that does deliver on expectations at a rudimentary level, these filmmakers missed their opportunity to make daring decisions. Especially by the time you've made so many films in the same franchise, you'd better be blowing us out of the water with at least *something* brand-spanking new.

*“Predators” stars Adrien Brody, Topher Grace, Laurence Fishburne, Alice Braga, Walter Goggins, Oleg Taktarov, Danny Trejo, Louis Ozawa Changchien, Mahershalalhashbaz Ali, Carey Jones, Brian Steele and Derek Mears from director Nimrod Antal, producers Robert Rodriguez and Alex Young and writers Alex Litvak and Michael Finch with characters by Jim Thomas and John Thomas. The film, which was released nationwide on July 9, 2010, is rated “R” with a running time of 106 minutes.*



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Royce (Adrien Brody) and Isabelle (Alice Braga) take aim during their desperate battle against the alien predators.

*Image credit: Rico Torres*



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