00:00 Intro Music

00:00:06 Last night, I got to see the preview cut of *Ghostbusters* at the lower Manhattan Alamo Drafthouse – also known as the Ivan Reitman theater. The late Ivan Reitman’s son, Jason Reitman was there to introduce the film.

00:00:17 And being the film nerd that I am, I realized pretty quickly that Jason and team were standing right behind my seat for the duration of the previews. I tried to make the back of my head look as cool as possible, but when I heard someone let out a full belly laugh during the preview for *Five Nights at Freddy’s*,I did kind of turn my head like I was fixing my ponytail because I really, really wanted to see who laughed in the middle of a horror film trailer. But alas, I chickened out before turning my head enough to see who it was.

00:00:44 When Jason introduced the film, he told us that we were the first theater audience to see this cut of the movie since it was shown to test audiences in 1984. I’ve never ever seen anything other than a fully produced movie so seeing a huge genre-defining blockbuster it its unfinished state was SO COOL.

00:01:03 Jason also told us we shouldn’t expect to see a bunch of deleted scenes, but rather a bunch of scenes that are a little different. He also shared that he and Spike Jonze were both extras in the scene near the end of the movie where the sidewalk breaks in front of Dana Barrett’s building – an experience they did not realize they shared until discussing the movie in adulthood.

00:01:22 The film was grainy because it was preserved on Betamax – which for all you Gen Z-ers is a precursor to the VHS tape. And according to Jason, we’re all lucky that it exists today because a member of his dad’s team took the preview cut (which is typically not saved) and transferred it to Betamax back in 1984.

00:01:40 Since this was a preview cut, there aren’t many effects – you have to use your imagination for 99% of the ghosts. In the New York Public Library scene. where The Ghostbusters face their first full body apparition, they’re all very frightened of an empty hallway.

00:01:55 They look like they’re playing dress up and running around with little toy backpacks and ray guns, which of course they are, but it also made me love the movie even more. I wanted to jump in there and play make believe too.

00:02:05 There’s no music, which also means there’s 2 minutes of silence in the preview cut. The audience giggled nervously throughout that cut – even at parts that weren’t funny – because I think we were all acutely aware that we were sitting in silence in a room full of strangers.

00:02:18 But what’s so so cool about seeing this cut without all the special effects, is that I had a new appreciation for the practical effects. And wow there are SO MANY practical effects in this movie—from the books swapping themselves to other shelves in the library to the hotel’s hallways catching on fire. My personal favorite was Dana’s eggs frying themselves on the countertop. In fact, most of this movie is practical effects. The most impressive of which has got to be the scene where Dana is grasped by creepy demon dog hands through the cushions of her armchair and then goes flying down the hall into the kitchen. The levitation scene is also a practical effect, but in hindsight, I think, you know, that makes sense with wires. The other stuff – like the eggs—just seemed more magical to me.

00:03:02 I also loved hearing all the background noise of 1984 New York City. And the extras awkwardly chanting “Ghostbusters” a long word to say in rhythm – until they finally found their pacing. I love that you can hear the librarian’s pen scratching on paper in the opening scene. There’s barely a Stay Puft Marshmallow man in the preview cut – you do get one brief shot of him walking down the street and then his hat falling onto the waiting crowd once the Ghostbusters obliterate him – but that’s it.

00:03:29 The montage scene (this is the aforementioned two minutes of silence) appears to be the most glaringly different from the final cut. I actually felt like there was MORE Egon (my favorite) in the preview cut than the final – though of course I did not time this out so I don’t know for sure. He’s definitely more present in the preview cut montage.

00:03:47 In the preview cut montage, he’s eating from a takeout box of Chinese food in the Chinatown scene but appears to be covered up with the “Ghost Cops Bust Chinatown Spook” *New York Post* cover in the final cut. There’s also a cut portion where he keeps falling asleep at his microscope. Janine tries to wake him, but he’s so out of it, she just gently rests his head back on the eye pieces, so he doesn’t fall over. I much prefer that sweet Janine/Egon moment to the sexy ghost scene they added with Dan Ackroyd in the final. But to each his own.

00:04:16 One piece of dialogue I did notice a change in is in the job interview scene where Janine asks Winston if he believes in UFOs, astral projections, mental telepathy, and a whole host of other paranormal theories – he originally says that he does not believe in any of those things before completing the line you all already know – that “if there’s a steady paycheck in it, I’ll believe anything you say.”

00:04:38 At the end of the movie, there’s once again an extended silence where the theme song should be playing. I guess we were all over our nervous laughter at this point because the theater was so quiet that you all you could hear was the subway train passing beneath us.

00:04:51 Also, this is separate from the preview cut, but only upon this viewing did I realize that Janine is basically working 24/7 including ringing the emergency alarm while The Ghostbusters are sleeping. My God, give that woman a raise!

00:05:04 Jason also shared that he hopes to bring something of his father’s to the Ivan Reitman theater each month, so if you missed the screening this time – I strongly suggest keeping your eye on the Lower Manhattan Alamo Drafthouse website just in case there’s another opportunity in the future!

00:05:18 As anyone who has been to an Alamo showing knows, they always have really interesting pre-shows. This one included a bunch of international adaptations of *Ghostbusters*, many that I have never heard of. I’ll link to them in the show notes for those interested.

00:05:30 That’s all for now! I’ll be back with Hallie and John in a couple of weeks to talk about ghosts in a different context. That’s right, our much anticipated *What Lies Beneath* episode will be dropping in your feeds mid-August. In the meantime, you can visit us at Forgotten Film Club dot com. And if you like the show, please do rate and subscribe. It really helps. Bye!

00:05:51 Outro Music