



Crysis

By Mood Dude

Minimum System Requirements
System: Intel P4 2.8 GHz / AMD Athlon 2800+ / Intel Core 2 Duo or equivalent
RAM: 1024 MB
Hard Drive Space: 6000 MB
Other: Video: NVIDIA 6800 GT 256 MB / ATI X800 Pro 256 MB or better

Recommended System Requirements

System: Dual-core CPU (Athlon X2/Pentium D) or equivalent
RAM: 2048 MB
Hard Drive Space: 6000 MB
Other: Graphics: Nvidia 7800GTX/ATI X1800XT (SM 3.0) or DX10 equivalent

The looks

Crysis is first and foremost the most amazing looking game so far. When it first came out about a year ago on TV, it was like looking at a movie. I thought it was a cutscene except it is the whole game that looks this good. Just look at the screenshots.

Just jungles are actually alive with everything moving in much the same way as a real one. Snow falls and when hit by bullets they explode in puffs.

When you interact with your squadmates, facial animation that brings them to life. They can convey emotion with subtle facial gestures.

Question is, is the game worthy of the graphics?

The story
Crysis is an alien invasion game set in 2020. An archeological team on a remote Pacific island is captured by an invasion force of North Koreans. You belong to a US Special Forces team dispatched to rescue. Since it is 2020, you dress up in a very clever high-tech nanosuits capable of

boosting your strength, speed, and armor, as well as cloaking you temporarily to the enemy. You drop into the jungle to find enemies, both human and something much more sinister that is busy ripping up everyone. Sounds a bit like the movie Predator eh?

The game

Crysis is a "sandbox" game where you have levels that are incredibly large arenas containing an objective. You can get the job done any way you want adding to the beauty of the gameplay.

These are huge environments and you can take circuitous route to use stealth or simply go gung-ho. And your nanosuit gives you much cooler options. You can become invisible for a while and snipe your opponents or zip through quietly hurling them off a cliff. You have incredible speed and your suit helps you heal. But that doesn't make you invincible.

The fighting

The game has such highly advanced physics that most computers will cry in shame. But if you have a machine that can supply the juice you are in for a treat.

A jungle firefight easily becomes a cinematic treat as bullets will chop down trees, branches sway from impacts and even falling on someone killing or maiming them. Wreckage can land anywhere and for all you know, it's sometimes unpredictable and adds to the fun.

Weapon recoil and other ballistic effects are realistic. Long distance shots take a while to affect as the North Koreans are encased in body armor. Shoot them in the head and they are out for good. Silencers let you take down guys quietly, though they reduce bullet damage so you have to make sure you hit the target right.

Action becomes larger and more intense as your progress. You'll storm North Korean-held

villages and bases and even drive a tank through the vegetation and knocking down trees as missiles and tank fire erupt all around you. It is simply stunning to watch.

AI

The AI is excellent as they are not just dummies popping up to be killed. They actually hide and use cover to save their hides. They will toss grenades to flush you out of hiding. Fighting with the AI is rewarding because it makes you work for your victory. Instead of just picking them off randomly. AI, when you get into the difficult mode, AI doesn't cheat, just speaks in Korean so that you don't know what they are saying.

The goods

The single-player game is awesome and the multiplayer mode is excellent with five large maps to support it. I couldn't play the latter but from video reviews, it seems a busy game indeed. Every body has their suit powers so there is a lot of high intensity action going on. With built-in voice support, a microphone allows you to talk to your fellow players and teammates.

The sounds

With a basic surround setup, you can truly get immersed. The soft crunch of dirt as you creep about, the muffled sounds as you turn on your suit's cloak and fire from all sides is just a small dose of the aural goodness. It's also got excellent voice acting delivering a little humor as well.

Verdict

It's a long game. It's a beautiful game. My first complaint is that it's not long enough. The second is that it needs a little more polish.

It's also got good replayability as you can go back and try out the large battles they can unfold in different ways each time. With smart AI and a smarter boy, it's an engaging game.



MOVIES

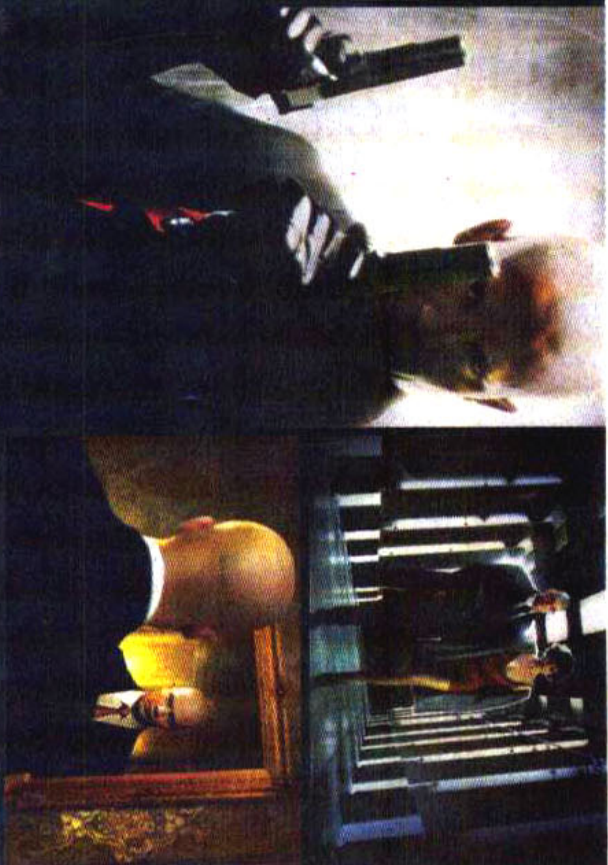
Reviewed by Gokhira

August Rush

Cast & Credits
Evan/August: Freddie Highmore
Lyla: Keir Russell
Louis: Jonathan Rhys Meyers
Wizard: Robin Williams
Lyla's father: William Sadler
Arthur: Leon G. Thomas III

Hitman

Cast & Credits
Agent 47: Timothy Olyphant
Mike: Dougray Scott
Nika: Olga Kurylenko
Yuri: Robert Knepper
Bellicoff: Ulrich Thomsen



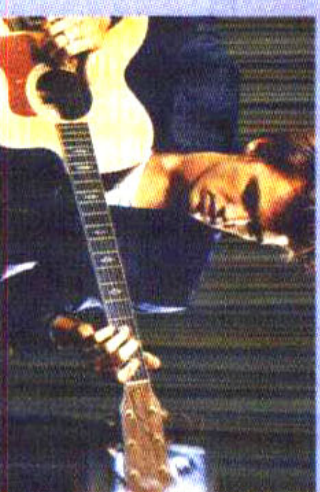
A Sentimental movie this is definitely not. In fact, it lacks all sentiments and settles for cold hard ruthlessness. For a while anyways.

Movies adapted from games often have very iffy outcomes. Think of Doom. It was punningly doomed. Agent 47 from the hit game Hitman is one of those characters that beggar a movie all about them. He is a character especially considering he is bald and has a bar code tattooed on the back of his head. It's not a very good disguise considering he is wanted for more than a 100 kills across the world.

The plot:
Agent 47 (Timothy Olyphant) was raised as an orphan from birth by a shadowy organization named simple The Agency. Governments use their services to perform assassination that they cannot conduct directly.

Agent 47 knows all the tricks, he's cool, suave, ruthless. He's the perfect killer. That is until he meets the young woman Nika (Olga Kurylenko). She somehow proves to be a bit of a chink in his cold armor.

Nika is a prostitute held in slavery by the drug-dealer who happens to have all the power because his brother is the Russian president. Now has to do.



Total Tyler

By Sabrina F Ahmad

WHEN my friend Tabitha sent me an ecstatic e-mail saying "OH MY GOD! I MET TYLER HILTON!" I didn't really make much of the news. Then I started watching the television series One Tree Hill, where in the second season, the arrogant and utterly lovable Chris Keller makes a debut, and totally fell in love with the cover of the Ryan Adams song "When the Stars go Blue" which Keller sings in a duet with another character, Haley (Bethany Joy Galeotti). I realized then, with a jolt that the cute guy posing with my friend on her display picture was none other than Chris Keller himself. This led to an increased interest in the actor, which deepened as Keller slowly evolves in the series as more than just a pretty face.

This Sagittarian was born Tyler James Hilton (24) in Palm Springs, California and began his professional career in music in 2000. Rolling Stone Magazine compared him to his contemporary Howie Day while others have compared Hilton to Elton John, both vocally and instrumentally. Raised in Bermuda Dunes, CA, Hilton grew up

around music and began teaching himself Elvis Presley songs at an early age. After a brief stint in Northern California, his family moved back to the Palm Springs area, where he wrote his first song about a classmate. Hilton's family made another move back to Coachella Valley for high school, where at La Quinta High School, he started a band with some of his classmates. The band didn't go anywhere, so Hilton began to enter open mic nights and went to local coffee shops to play his own music.

He got his first break at age 16 when, upon hearing about a local radio station's offer for giving away Johnny Lang concert tickets, he called into the Mark & Brian radio show on KLOS in LA, and sang an acoustic version of Lang's "Breakin' Me". The impromptu audition landed him a spot at the station's Christmas concert. This eventually led to a record deal with Maverick Records, and his debut album The Tracks of Tyler Hilton was released in 2004.

Since the release of his debut album, Hilton has ventured into acting, guest starring on The CW's television show One Tree Hill as the talented but somewhat pompous Chris Keller, and playing the role of Elvis Presley in the Johnny Cash biopic Walk the Line. Hilton has just finished filming his role in the upcoming film Charlie Bartlett. Currently, he is in the process of recording a second album in Nashville.

Cute, talented, and apparently a really nice guy in person, Tyler Hilton is a rare mix indeed. Check out the video for his new song "You'll ask for me, by name" at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z98/mKKA77w>.

