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[Escape from L.A. – Blu-ray Disc Review](#)

May 1, 2010 – 7:23 PM - Posted by: [Justin Sluss](#)

Tags: [A.J. Langer](#), [Bruce Campbell](#), [Cliff Robertson](#), [Georges Corraface](#), [John Carpenter](#), [Kurt Russell](#), [Pam Grier](#), [Paramount](#), [Peter Fonda](#), [Stacy Keach](#), [Steve Buscemi](#), [Valeria Golino](#)



- ★★★★☆ The Movie Itself has an average rating of **5.2** on [IMDb](#)
- ★★★★☆ Video Quality 1080p in AVC MPEG-4 on a **50gb** disc
- ★★★★☆ Audio Quality **Dolby TrueHD 5.1**
- ★★★★☆ Bonus Materials sadly ONLY includes the trailer in **HD**

Rated : - **R**

Year : - 1996

Length : - 100 minutes

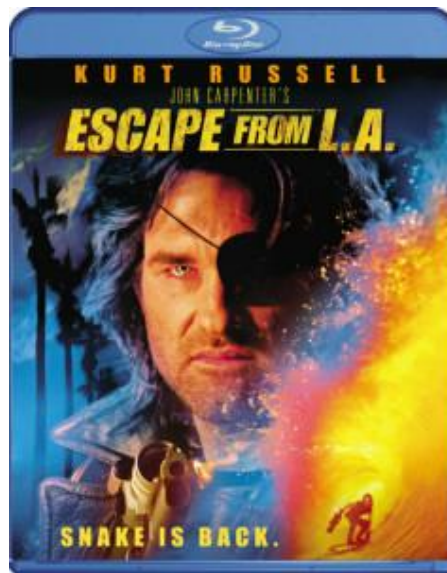
Studio : - **Paramount**

Region : -

This uses 28.6GB for the movie out of 30.9GB total.

Street Date: **May 4th, 2010**

Overall Verdict – *Good Presentation but No Bonus*



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— Review written by: [Justin Sluss](#) —

The Movie Itself

The Movie Itself is the sequel to “*Escape from New York*” from 1981 which was co-wrote and directed, just as the case with this, by **John Carpenter** known for such other classic films such as “*Halloween*” and “*The Thing*” with the latter of which also starring **Kurt Russell** like this film. Reprising his role as the action hero “*Snake Plissken*” **Russell** manages to remind us how he can carry even the worst of films. I say that as a bit of a disclaimer of sorts for those of you who never saw this sequel, as well... for lack of a better term, this just plan is downright cheesy as fuck and reminds me of a B-movie you’d have seen if the wacky folks over at **Troma** had mysteriously overnight both won the lottery and sold their souls to the devil or whatever it took to get **John Carpenter** to co-write and direct a film back in the mid-90’s. So let’s just say, **YES**, it’s THAT bad in terms of an actual film with a story and just downright cheesy. For Christ-sake, I mean the plot involves rescuing or rather killing the President’s daughter (played by **A.J. Langer**) which is just downright stupid, even video games have now gotten story lines more in-depth than that to support the action.

EDITORIAL SIDE-NOTE: My guess is that **Carpenter** wrote this when he got a great harvest of some killer bud as I know he likes to smoke his weight in marijuana, which I’m usually one to commend him on but when it compromises the logic to his film’s plot I have to take the joint out of his hand and slap him on the wrist (metaphorically of course, as I’d just steal his joint or stash of that stuff he was on and ran). Regardless, yes, there’s actually a movie here aside from my hilarious (with sarcasm intended) commentary regarding the sequel and its writer/director’s recreational drug use gone wrong.

This film is so similar to the first film even down to the plot as in they have to bring “*Snake*” in to rescue the President (this time his daughter and instead of saving, kill her), he’s taken in as a prisoner and then given this catch that he can’t escape as they inject him with something that will kill him by said time if he has not completed their task. It’s like “*Crash 2*” would have been if they had no imagination what-so-ever and/or were too burnt out to think up anything better than the exact same plot to the first film all over again with just slightest little things changed. I don’t know who the hell **Carpenter** and even his co-writers on this script which included **Russell** were trying to fool. My guess is they were really desperate from a check and **Paramount** in 1996 was willing to write one even if it was for rehashed BS.

“*Escape from L.A.*” was definitely not that great of a sequel and obviously nowhere on the same level as the original film (“*Escape from New York*”) which sadly is not yet available on **Blu-ray Disc** to accompany this — that has to do with **MGM** having the distribution rights to the first film for one. Regardless, it’s still one of those “guilty pleasure” action flicks that a lot of us (guys especially) like to occasionally watch — even if it is quite

honesty cheesy as all hell with a plot as thin as the hair on most of the heads of male U.S. Senate members. See, I made that political. As the late/great **George Carlin** put it best — “*people like it when you’re topical*” so I figured I’d share that with you to wrap things up here for the synopsis. My point is, this film is so bad, it’s almost fun to watch — like a train wreck. Plus, it does have some alright performances from (obviously) **Russell, Steve Buscemi, Stacy Keach, Peter Fonda** and even an appropriate cameo by B-movie legend **Bruce Campbell** (of “*Evil Dead*” and now “*Burn Notice*” fame).

Video Quality

Video Quality on this release is in full 1080p using the AVC MPEG-4 codec on a **BD-50** (50 gigabyte dual-layered **Blu-ray Disc**) in the 2.35:1 aspect ratio. According to [IMDb](#)’s technical specifications for the aspect ratio this was shot 35mm film using Panavision cameras. For a 1996, now fourteen-year-old film this 35mm print has held up rather well and they’ve also given it a nice transfer to Hi-Def. The black level is perfectly solid here, that much is for certain. Fleshtones are accurate here throughout and the color palette is vibrant at times despite the film’s dark settings for a majority of the film. There’s a bit of film grain present, which is to be expected and there’s also some occasional dirt or specks on the film print that have been left to I’m guessing preserve the original theatrical presentation. I’m not complaining by any means, just pointing these things out. One thing that really comes across weak now that this is in Hi-Def and the result of a great more detail is the mid-90’s CG effects and green/blue screen efforts (that honestly didn’t seem to have had the biggest budget) end up looking pretty cheesy; showing off all of their flaws now and making parts a bit more unbelievable than ever before. Some great examples to back up that statement from my screenshots can be found [HERE](#) & [HERE](#) especially. Notice how fake the jump of Snake on the motorcycle appears frames apart which leaves any viewer with [THIS](#) same reaction that the “bad guy” has when he sees him perform that impossible jump.

Still though, this is undoubtedly the best this film has looked with a good amount of detail now present and I don’t honestly expect it to ever look too much better than it does here. That being said, “*Escape from L.A.*” in its debut to **Blu-ray** earns a pretty solid “**4 Star Rating**” for overall video quality.

Audio Quality

Audio Quality on this release is presented in **Dolby True HD 5.1** Surround. The dialogue here is delivered very crisp and distinct through primarily the front channel and the large majority of the sound stage is made up of presence in the front left and right channels. That being said, this is by no means totally “front heavy” as there IS a good amount of rear channel and bass (LFE) presence here as well for the film’s original music, sound effects, Foley and such. Speaking of the film’s original music, it was composed by **John Carpenter** himself along with **Shirley Walker** and it is done justice here in this 5.1 lossless mix. There’s nothing here to really push it “over the top” so-to-speak but it is a definite improvement over the Dolby Digital 5.1 included in the previous DVD release. This manages to get the job done in terms of audio presentation for this action flick. In closing, “*Escape from L.A.*” on **Blu-ray** earns itself a pretty impressive “**4.5 Star Rating**” for overall audio quality. It’ll leave fans (what few do exist) of the film very pleased.

Bonus Materials

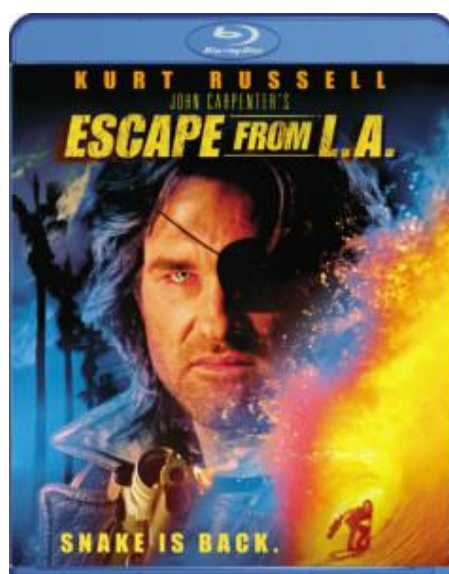
Bonus materials are presented in **High Definition (HD)** video with **Dolby Digital 2.0 Stereo @192kbps** sound.

- **Theatrical Trailer** (1:33 – **HD**)

Overall, the bonus materials are pretty much, in my opinion especially, non-existent as I do not count a trailer for the film — even if it IS in **Hi-Def** — as supplemental (bonus) material. I know that they probably didn’t have anything to work with here, much like the case for the original DVD release of the first film which also included

just a theatrical trailer.

Blu-ray Disc packaging:



Screenshots:

