

Pacific Rim: Uprising Notes

- The tone of this gives me whiplash. It's weirdly goofy.
- I don't like this soundtrack. It's generic wannabe Daft Punk.
- This opening sequence is less PacRim and more Bayformers. It's indicative of all the special effects in this. The robots lack weight and impact. They feel 20 feet tall, not 200. This is most apparent in the Arctic battle. There's the flimsy explanation of improved Jaeger tech, but this problem extends to the Kaiju, too. How do you explain that?
- I'm not fond of this script. The dialogue is bad MCU banter. The film has a seriously bad case of bathos.
- I know del Toro suggested replacing Raleigh with a Stacker son, but it doesn't fit. How do you overlook something this huge?
- The effects and worldbuilding lack del Toro's incredible eye for detail.
- Name affinity won't make me like this.
- The character names aren't as good.
- Shao, aka China Pandering. She replaces the Japanese woman people actually like. Shao not being the villain makes no sense. She abrasive and annoying.
- 37 minutes in, I turned against the movie. I figured out quickly it wasn't as good as the original, but I was fine with it. Mako's unceremonious death—a fridging—ticked me off. What was the point? It feels like more China pandering. It makes Newt's betrayal, while a del Toro idea, feel like disrespect toward the first film. The worst part is the film teases whether or not Mako will die *twice*.
- I give the film credit for shifting from robot vs. kaiju to robot vs. robot—but it's less original as blockbusters go.
- The hybrids are one of the few good ideas in this film. It's a natural progression from what we saw in the original.
- I hate that the movie teases that Newt could be saved—and then doesn't. It makes him look pathetic.
- The Precursors' plan is *the worst thing* in this movie. It's stupid. It retroactively makes the first film worse. The Kaiju came from one breach and went across the world. The cities were “in the way”?! They must have the worst sense of direction. It makes the Precursors look stupid, too. How could this have been their objective the whole time? The sad thing is this could've been easily fixed: just say the Precursors changed their plan.
- We get the PacRim theme once. For 30 seconds. And it's a bad remix.
- The Trollface guy...uh!
- I don't know what to make of the Kaiju attacking Tokyo. Is it a tribute to the genre, or is it more China pandering?
- If I hear someone sight this as “good” because of “daylight battles,” I will smack them.
- There's a *Man of Steel* level of disregard for collateral damage in the finale. Destruction porn, anyone?
- Double bird. Bathos.

- So, we have Kaiju who can Voltron—but not Jaegers?
- The Gundam statue is a crass reference. Del Toro wanted to avoid such things.
- Drift compatibility means nothing here. They swap out and pair pilots with little consequence.
- “Maelstrom” was a better title. I don’t get this one.
- DeKnight: Double Negative, not ILM, did the effects.
- DeKnight: He says he loves Spielberg and did several homages to Spielberg in the movie.
- DeKnight: He’s a fanboy of *Starship Troopers*, and he likes ships landing on transport ships and people exiting them.
- DeKnight: He has his writers spent two days agonizing over Jaeger and Kaiju names so they sounded like they belonged in the first film.
- DeKnight: Boyega improvised much of his dialogue.
- DeKnight: Newt and Gottlieb are his favorites characters.
- DeKnight: He calls the Precursors’ plan a “retcon.” It stemmed from the Kaiju blood rocket fuel to deploy Jaegers faster.
- DeKnight: He says he had sleepless nights over killing Mako, but it had to be done for the sake of the story in the “next installment.” (Well, that was pointless).
- DeKnight: At one point in the script outline, Mako survived the crash and was in a coma. Jake had to drift with her to get info. This was changed and replaced with a data pack. (I disapprove).
- DeKnight: He says he grew up loving tokusatsu.
- DeKnight: He wanted to honor the spirit of the first film.
- DeKnight: He wanted Gipsy Avenger to be the flagship, the starship Enterprise; awe-inspiring.