

TV SERIES REVIEW

Interstellar Zedd War: Power Rangers Cosmic Fury **LUCAS WERNER**

Power Rangers Cosmic Fury is the third and final season of the Power Rangers Dino Fury sub-series of the long running (30 years) Power Rangers show. It arrived on Netflix in late September, a full year since the conclusion of Power Rangers Dino Fury's second season. From beginning to end, this latest season is a worthy celebration of the franchise's 30th anniversary (even though there are some who would disagree).

Here's a summary of the storyline of Dino Fury: 65 million years ago, on the planet Rafkaon, the evil Sporix Beasts were unleashed on this world, laying waste to the entire place and leaving few survivors. Once they had their fill of destruction on Rafkaon, these monsters headed for prehistoric Earth. The Knights of Rafkaon (the aforementioned survivors) followed the Sporix Beasts and continued the battle on Earth. But with each battle, the monsters grew stronger, until they grew giant.

With the Knights and dinosaurs on the run, the Earth too seemed lost, until the Morphin Masters (ageless beings with untold power, including the ability to turn anyone into Power Rangers) arrived, turning

the Knights of Rafkaon into the Dino Fury Power Rangers and giving them Zords (giant robots) to battle the gigantic monsters. During the final battle against the Sporix Beasts in this time period, seemingly all but one of these warriors, Zayto, survived and guarded the Sporix cocoons (which hatch into the monsters) along with Solon, a cyborg dinosaur.

Fast-forward to present-day, in the city of Pine Ridge, a villain called Void Knight unleashed the Sporix on Earth once again by accident when he tried to take them for himself, thus prompting Zayto to train a new team of Rangers. After many battles, the Power Rangers defeated the Sporix and sealed them away with the help of the Morphin Masters. But six months later, the evil Lord Zedd (the very first 'Emperor of Evil') returned with a vengeance. With new foes and new Zords in tow, can our heroes save the universe from total destruction?

Power Rangers Cosmic Fury has both good and bad points. On the plus side, the return of fan-favorite characters throughout PR history, including Billy (the first Blue Ranger from Mighty Morphin Power Rangers) and Heckyl (former villain, now



The author watches Episode 1 of Power Rangers Cosmic Fury.

Photo by Lucas Werner

Dark Ranger from PR Dino Charge), made my jaw drop in amazement. The new semi-autonomous Cosmic Fury Zords' designs are a sight to

behold. The Rangers' new suits and weapons, which looked spectacular, are as good as ever in battle. The team even has

orange as a new signature color for Fern (who first appeared in Dino Fury).

As a lifelong PR fan, I never saw the Squid Ink Inc. plot twist coming. I don't want to spoil it, but I think it will leave you astonished. Several Megazords showing up in the final battle was a real treat for the eyes, featuring five of the most iconic PR teams in their giant robots.

On the debit side, a show lasting only ten episodes does have a feeling of wasted potential, since there could have been more put into it. Javi (the Black Ranger) losing his arm to activate the Cosmic Fury Zords just didn't sit right with me. This 'dramatic' moment felt like a low blow to the character and a real waste of an opportunity. This plot twist has turned a lot of fans off, leaving them with the feeling that Javi deserved better.

With this era of a classic show now over, the conclusion has left many fans of this franchise conflicted, with some saying it was a disgrace to the legacy, while others calling it a great sendoff. Cosmic Fury gets a rating of 4.5 out of 5. If you want to check this show out for yourself, it's now streaming on Netflix.

Queen and Queerness: Together at Last **RAY KATZ**

When the British band Queen came onto the scene in 1970, it was nearly unheard of to be openly queer, especially as a public figure. The media suppressed queerness so much that one of Queen's music videos for the song "I Want to Break Free" was actually banned from airing on MTV because it was seen as promoting cross-dressing. (You should absolutely go watch that video. The whole band is in drag and it's iconic). Although the media denied his queerness for years, lead singer Freddie Mercury is now known as a queer icon.

There are so few queer icons from that time. In fact, it is only recently that positive queer representation has become available to youth. It is so important for people to be able to see themselves represented in media, as failure to be recognized can result in feelings of shame in one's sexuality or gender presentation. Even though I was born in a very different time, I had no queer role models to look up to in media until I was in my teen years.

When my mother offered to get me Queen tickets for my

birthday, I jumped at the chance. Queen is one of my favorite bands, and Freddie Mercury and Adam Lambert both played a large part in my being comfortable in my own queerness. As I was watching

a queer person celebrated in person. The revelation made me bawl. To see a sold out Madison Square Garden's worth of people cheering for both Freddie Mercury and Adam Lambert, two openly queer

Besides the public celebration, it is also important to have queer role models in one's personal life. For me personally, seeing advisors at the Department of Student Involvement who are not scared to be themselves

up, there were rumors about teachers being gay, but it was never confirmed, and all of the rumors that were spread had negative connotations. It wasn't until earlier this year that I saw "seasoned adults" out and proud, and it gave me the confidence to do the same. For me, it took twenty years to see that part of myself represented in someone I personally knew. In some ways, that makes me lucky. Some people will never get that chance. There are still 70 countries around the world where being queer is a crime.

Gay marriage was legalized nationally in the United States on June 26 of 2015. At the time I didn't quite understand the magnitude of what had happened, but looking back, it was a huge deal, and it still is.

It is so important for people, all people, to see queerness in media, as it helps to erase harmful stereotypes and destigmatize queerness. It was people like Freddie Mercury who gave me the confidence to come out. And there is no doubt in my mind that he has helped countless others feel comfortable in their own skin and confident enough to be themselves.



Queen performing at Madison Square Garden Oct 12.

Photo by Erica Mizutani

the concert, I realized that watching the current lead singer, Adam Lambert, perform was the first time I was seeing

men, was surreal. Everyone - gay, straight, didn't matter - cheered for them in unison.

has had a huge impact on me. It's made me realize that it is not unprofessional to look or be queer. When I was growing