

Salt (15)

On Wednesday 10th June, eleven members enjoyed the preposterous, totally unbelievable, but brilliantly executed SALT.

Evelyn Salt, played by Angelina Jolie, is a CIA operative. She is outed as a Russian sleeper agent by a Orlov, a Russian defector (he isn't), which then leads to a whole series of brilliant set pieces as Salt escapes from the CIA.

During some of these scenes, Salt "defies the laws of physics" (from a review of the film on the internet), as she jumps from fast moving vehicles onto others – without really getting injured at all!

The film develops into a lot of chase scenes and an excellent set up for the assassination of the Russian president, who is visiting the USA to act as a pall bearer to the recently deceased American vice-president. Salt is captured and taken into custody, but escapes again (more ridiculous chase escapades), before joining Orlov and companions on a boat on the Potomac. After seeing her husband executed, Salt turns on Orlov and kills all on the boat, but not before receiving the plans to launch a nuclear attack using the US's ICBMs.

Key further mayhem. Salt eventually saves the world by uncovering another sleeper agent (her boss in the CIA, played by Liev Schrieber), before "escaping" (see the film if you want to understand the quotation marks).

Part of the fun of the film is the fast paced direction, which keeps the film moving at speed (possibly to stop the audience thinking about all the plot holes and ludicrous coincidences, the spotting of which is also part of the fun). The dialogue was mumbled in places (typical American film), so we had the subtitles turned on.

A silly example of a carelessness on the part of the film makers. At the start of the film, two years before the main action, Salt has been captured by the North Koreans and is being interrogated. She is taken from her cell, clearly the worse for wear from several interrogations over a number of days, in her knickers and bra. She is spread eagled on the floor and waterboarded. And you see her armpits – completely clean shaven!

The cast, with Chiwetel Ejiofor in a major role, was uniformly good (let's face it, this wasn't a tour-de-force for actors to get their teeth into). It drew comparisons with the Bourne films and it was a pleasure to see the main role performed by a leading actress (rather than the males in similar films).

Suspend your disbelief – this was great fun!