

Falling From the Sky

Jarrow

Achievement in Use of Music: Shortlist 2007

Achievement in Vidding: Shortlist 2007

The review below may contain spoilers for new *Battlestar Galactica* up to the end of season 3.

Nicky: What I loved most about this vid is the incredibly clear and focused structure, taking an approach that presented a fresh new look at this oft-vidded character.

Brad: Yeah, this is one of those rare cases when all of the elements came together - a great vidder, a great idea, and great execution - to create something is both mesmerizing and feels like a totally unique experience.

Nicky: Throughout the vid, the great cinematography of the show is used to spine-tingling effect, with beautiful musical expression and attention to detail.

Brad: And I think that's something that not a lot of people do: make such good use of the inherent merits of the source. *BSG* is some spectacular source, and Jarrow really squeezes it for all it's worth here.

Nicky: The intro is particularly remarkable in its use of on-beat lighting and subtler moments where visuals echo various bass and treble layers present in the music. I particularly liked the musicality at 0:11.

The first part of the vid focuses on Starbuck the commander as she first presents herself to the new pilots, which flows on effortlessly to the clip at 0:43 and a more personal backstory. The vid makes it clear that her entire life is tied up with the military: everyone she cares about is, or was here at one time or another. With this personal motivation firmly established, the focus of the vid moves back to Starbuck flying out to war around the 1:05 mark.

Brad: The personal backstory, as it's presented here, is so tremendously important because it gives the viewer a much more direct connection with the character. All of the emotional impact of the second half is born from that.

Nicky: The first chorus from 1:25 is fiercely kinetic and a stellar piece of action vidding, mixing fabulous music expression and motion (both internal and external) with well-paced, invisible cutting.

Brad: The use of motion to express the music all through the vid, but particularly here, is so terrific it's tough to move past that and talk about the flow of narrative. But I'll try. I like how this segment feels almost triumphant and celebratory, which, again, wonderfully sets up the final segment.

Nicky: The second verse marks another palpable shift, this time into key romantic relationships. The intercutting of a crashing aircraft with her tumultuous relationship with Lee seems particularly apt. These scenes lead into the final segment: that of her role as a commander. I found that the clip of model ships at 2:24 particularly embodied this section.

Brad: And, again, the viewer's connection to her is reinforced through Jarrow's return to her personal life, her struggles, and her sacrifices.

Nicky: The second chorus is the most spectacular in terms of sheer on-screen spectacle with particularly dynamic on-beat motion. This is offset beautifully by the transparent emotion and clear message, which had been building up since the start of the vid and we finally reach the payoff here. I especially liked how the crossfades around 2:47 - 2:49 mirrored the vocals.

The end of the vid details the aftermath of the war from a very human perspective, again with some absolutely breathtaking musical expression. I particularly liked the quick blur at 2:59 falling in line with the brief flaring of vocals, the amazing zoom out at 3:01, and the particularly perfect way the shaky motion expressed the guitars at 3:03. The quick cuts with flashes of everything she cared about at 3:08 - 3:10 was particularly striking, as is the sudden dropping-off (in both terms of content and the vid itself) in the end.

Brad: I love how through these final two segments you get the sense that, even though Starbuck isn't actually out there with them, she's the one who's "falling" here.

The payoff is so much more impactful because, in addition to all of the foreshadowing, the pace builds throughout the vid. The last segment is just *stunning*; truly some of the most memorable musicality I've ever seen in a vid. I can't imagine BSG source being used to greater effect in terms of building kinetic musicality. It's just so visually compelling that you can't help but get sucked in.

Nicky: This vid has amazing rewatchability - it is such a shiny piece of editing, and such a wonderfully told story, that it's hard to stop watching it over and over again.



THE FOURTH WALL
