



ZOMBIES OF THE STRATOSPHERE (DVD) – CHEEZY FLICKS  
ENTERTAINMENT 60/100

This 167 minute DVD is 12 parts of the Republic Pictures serial of the 1950s. Serials were short films usually shown along side a feature film once weekly at theatres around the US. Zombies Of The Stratosphere is low budget at its best. Cheap jetpack, rockets firing on wires and even recycled footage. They are all here. This could easily have kept the interest of viewers of its time as marvels of moving pictures, the (very) little fear of aliens it perhaps created and of course, a hero that somehow saved the planet from destruction. The story revolves around a plot by Martians - and one human - to blast Earth out of its orbit but our hero, Larry Martin, and his 'rocket patrol' save the day. The offering results in near three hours of nostalgia in the Plan 9 From Outer Space vein, although the flying jetpack footage and other outdoor scenes were probably very impressive for their time and don't seem as low budget as advertised or perceived when first watching it. Zombies Of The Stratosphere is broadly comparable to the Flash Gordon series of the same era. Don't forget to watch for Spock (Leonard Nimoy) as a Martian but where are the zombies?!

– Anna Tergel