

# **Confessions of a Cell Phone Jammer**

By Floyd Larck

Published by Floyd Larck at Smashwords

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Laus Deo

Proofread & Edited by:

Debbie Larck & Kim Rose

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## Movie Theaters

I don't think there's a bigger rip-off in the entertainment industry than the local movie theaters. Especially the regional and national chain theaters. There are a few independent theaters that are reasonably priced but they are few and far between. It's no wonder they have ATM's in the lobbies of the movie theaters because no one carries that kind of cash around with them. It's bad enough the ticket prices are so outrageous but a trip to the snack bar is simply breathtaking. And I don't mean *breathtaking* as in *beautiful* either. I let out a gasp the last time we went to the snack bar after the clerk rang up our order. That's the kind of breathtaking I'm talking about.

It shouldn't have been such a surprise to me though. The last time we were at the snack bar I could have sworn they were doing CPR on a guy right there at the snack counter. He had six good-sized teenage boys with him and he was still clutching the receipt for the snacks in his hand. And you thought the national debt is high? Anyone who has ever watched teenage boys, and some teen girls eat, knows exactly what I'm talking about. Seriously. You get two cherry cokes, a large popcorn, and a box of snow caps and you have just blown another 20 to 25 dollars. Think about it \$8.50 for a tub of popcorn with a couple of squirts of butter on it! The theater owners probably only pay \$80.00 per *ton* for raw popcorn. You know, now that I think of it, buying stock in movie theaters may be a good idea.

So anyway, we just dropped \$45.00 to \$50.00 on tickets and snacks and now we're on our way into the theater. When we get inside we're wondering why the theater manager hasn't had the lights turned down yet, and then I realize what the problem is. There are at least three dozen cell phones lit up throughout the auditorium. As you glance around you realize the managers have already turned the lights down. What's with the people who check the time on the phone all through the movie? Buy a watch for crying out loud! You came to watch a movie! When you see eight or ten animated glitzy logos of the movie company, production company, or *In Association With...*, announcements followed by text versions of the same group then the movie is about to begin. When the credits appear on the screen then it's time to go home. Crying out loud, do you really need a watch in this case?

Do I sound grouchy? Well let's see something, I just dropped nearly half a "C" note on snacks and tickets. A *C note* has nothing at all to do with music. It's a \$100 bill to you who've never heard the term before. You go to a movie theater to watch a movie. *In the dark*, not by the glow of cell phone screens.

Now that we're sitting in our seats we can't help but notice there's more going on in the audience than there is on the screen itself. Seems like once all the previews are over with the cell phone usage would drop. But such is not the case. My wife already knows what I'm going to do so I go ahead and prove her right. I pull out my trusty SignalBuster turning it upside down so nobody can see what I'm doing with it. A strange LED glowing in the dark is sure to attract the attention of cell phone users. After I turned the power on to the jammer it didn't seem to be working at first, then I realized people didn't know their cell phone was no longer connected. They were too busy talking and texting to realize they no longer had a signal on their phones.

Lo and behold, the cellaholics just realized they have no connectivity! I only *thought* it was noisy in the theater before. It just got remarkably worse. Those who weren't going into hysterics had already jumped up out of their seats and headed towards the door in search of a cell tower signal. Lucky them, but they will need to get at least 30 feet away from me and my trusty SignalBuster. Only then will they start to regain their cell signals and even then that's not a guarantee.

The crybabies in the theater have caused such a ruckus the ushers have been sent in to calm down the near riot taking place. The only thing the ushers can do is to escort them out of the theater. There's no way to shut up a person who has no cellphone connectivity in a movie theater. Thankfully the theater manager has realized what's taken place with the cell phone users going bonkers. She had the movie backed up to the beginning and restarted. There is peace for at least 15 minutes. Hopefully some of them will be so irritated they head home for the evening instead of returning to the theater. My wife squeezes my hand as a sign of her approval at my little trick.

On a side note. The next day my wife was talking to her friend at work and the woman told her the oddest thing took place the night before at the movie theaters where her husband and her went out to. It just so happened to be the same place where we were at, just not the same movie we were watching. She said she was sending a text to her kids to make sure they were in bed when the phone disconnected. And would not reconnect no matter what she did. "Couldn't get a signal out of either of our phones. My husband was so

annoyed he missed most of the movie from trying to set the phones to work,” she said to my wife.

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About the author:

Floyd Larck lives in Orlando Florida with his wife Debbie, their lovebird named Peaches and a cockatiel named P.J. Floyd is an amateur radio operator and has been writing for five years as of the writing of this book you have just read.

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