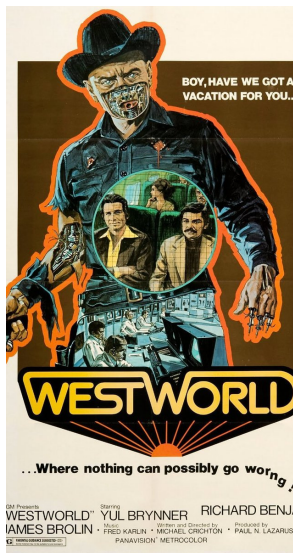


Short Review: “Westworld” (1973) by Dr. John L. Flynn



Westworld (1973). M-G-M, 89 min. Director and Screenwriter: Michael Crichton.

Producer: Paul Lazarus. Starring: Yul Brynner, Richard Benhamin, James Brolin, Norman Bartold, Victoria Shaw, and Alan Oppenheimer.

Crichton’s directorial debut “Westworld” anticipates the author’s own “Jurassic Park” as the story of a hi-tech amusement park out-of-control, with tourists becoming victims. For \$1,000 a day, wealthy patrons to the Disneyland-like Delos can visit technological recreations of ancient Rome, Medieval Europe, and the Old West where lifelike robots and synthetic environments complete the fantasy. Two Chicago businessmen (Benjamin and Brolin) arrive in Westworld for the holiday of their lives where they sleep with saloon girls, participate in barroom brawls, and duel with a robot gunslinger (modeled on the role Brynner made famous in “The Magnificent Seven”). Then one day, the robots rebel against their programming, and start killing the visiting tourists. Crichton confessed the movie was inspired by a real-life trip to Disneyland, and reflected his own anxieties about futuristic theme parks. The film is a clever mix of classic science fiction themes

and the action and romance of the Wild West. Blink and you'll miss Majel Barrett, who played Christine Chapel on "Star Trek," as one of the saloon girls. The inferior sequel "Futureworld" followed five years later. In 2016, HBO announced a large budget remake for the Fall.

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