

Short Review: “The Manchurian Candidate” (2004) by Dr. John L. Flynn



Manchurian Candidate, The (2004), Paramount, color, 130 min. Director: Jonathan Demme. Writers: Condon (novel), Axelrod (original screenplay), Daniel Pyre, etc. Producers: Demme, Scott Rudin, etc. Cast: Denzel Washington, Meryl Streep, Liev Schreiber, and Kimberly Elise. Unlike the original film, this one is set during the Gulf War. A platoon led by Captain Marco (Washington) is attacked but is heroically defended by Staff Sergeant Raymond Shaw (Schreiber) who receives the Medal of Honor. His mother, Senator Shaw (Streep channeling Hilary Clinton to the max!), has been leased by Manchurian Global Corporation. Marco discovers that he is sharing his nightmare about the patrol’s extended recovery with another patrol member, who both question Shaw’s heroism. Marco finds a microchip implanted in his body; another is found in the other vet’s body. Marco’s beautiful new friend (Elise) gives him a safe house in his investigation. Who is the assassin in this film? Take your choice; the ride is fine.

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