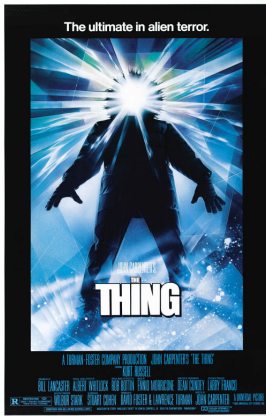


Short Review: “The Thing” (1982) by Dr. John L. Flynn



The Thing (1982). Universal Pictures, 109 min. Director: John Carpenter. Producers: Davis Foster and Lawrence Turman. Screenwriter: Bill Lancaster. Based on the novella “Who Goes There?” by John W. Campbell. Cast: Kurt Russell, A. Wilford Brimley, T.K. Carter, David Clennon, Keith David, Richard Dysart and Charles Hallahan.

The discovery of a flying saucer buried in the ice ignites feelings of suspicion, paranoia, and betrayal among the civilian and military personnel at an Antarctic research station. As in the original, they recover a sole survivor from the wreckage, only this is no blood-thirsty carrot, but rather a carnivorous, shape-changing “thing.” Once the creature thaws, it takes on the identity and physical make-up of each person it encounters, killing and draining the very essence of life. The station's resident mad doctor (Dysart) urges the others to capture the “thing” alive, while the rebellious Russell simply wants to destroy it as long as he can figure out which person the monster has replaced. Very few other films scared the shit out of us as much as this one did! Carpenter dispenses with many of the tired, overworked conventions of the original, and plunges his audience into a Gothic

horror tale of spine-tingling terror, dismemberment, grue and gore. If you plan to watch this one alone, leave a light on in the hallway. You'll thank me later.

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