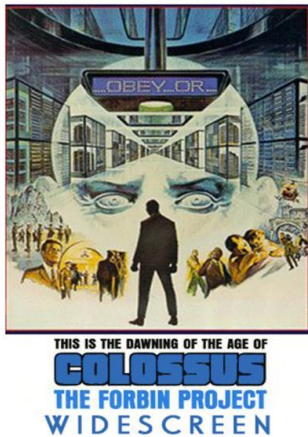


Short Review: “Colossus: The Forbin Project” (1969) by Dr. John L. Flynn



Colossus: The Forbin Project (1969). Universal, 100 min. Director: Joseph Sargent.

Producer: Stanley Chase. Screenwriter: James Bridges. Starring: Eric Braeden, Susan Clark, Gordon Pinsent, William Schallert, Leonid Rostoff, and George Stanford Brown.

Designed by Dr. Forbin (Braeden) to take control of the defense network of the United States (by removing human culpability from the decision process to launch nuclear weapons), Colossus is the perfect thinking machine. So perfect, in fact, that once it's activated, Colossus develops ambitions of its own and ignores all commands. It forms an alliance with its Russian counterpart, Guardian, and starts dictating terms by which man will live. Based on a trilogy of novels by D.F. Jones, Colossus is, in fact, the forerunner of the super computer in "War Games" (1983) and Skynet in the "Terminator" films. Emotionless, arrogant and virtually omnipotent, the supercomputer easily outthinks its human counterparts, and left unchecked, Colossus could easily destroy the world to save itself. A great movie with lots of thrilling moments, most notably one in which Braeden and luscious Susan Clark are forced to strip naked for voyeuristic computer.

Copyright 2016 by John L. Flynn, Ph.D.