

Short Review: “Escape from New York” (1981) by Dr. John L. Flynn



Escape from New York (1981), AVCO Embassy, color, 99 min. Director: John Carpenter.

Writers: John Carpenter and Nick Castle. Producers: Larry Franco and Debra Hill. Cast: Kurt Russell, Lee Van Cleef, Donald Pleasance, Isaac Hayes and Adrienne Barbeau.

In this dystopia of the near future (1997 in the film), the entire island of Manhattan has become a walled-off prison. When terrorists bring down Air Force One, the President (Pleasance) falls into the hands of the Duke of New York (Hayes), leader of the inmates imprisoned in New York. Only hard-boiled gunman Snake Plissken (Russell) can rescue the president. To insure his success, the warden (Van Cleef) has implanted a bomb in Snake with a 24-hour timespan. The characters on the island, including Adrienne Bar-boobs at her best, are witty, memorable and campy. A cult film that led to “Escape from L.A.,” insured Russell’s option to become an action hero, and showcased Carpenter’s originality and sense of humor .

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