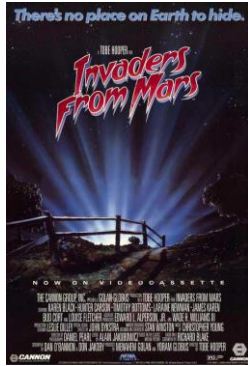


Short Review: "Invaders from Mars" (1986) by Dr. John L. Flynn



Invaders from Mars (1986). Cannon Films, 100 min. Director: Tobe Hooper. Producers: Golan and Globus. Based on the original film by William Cameron Menzies. Cast: Karen Black, Hunter Carson, Timothy Bottoms, Laraine Newman, James Karen, Louise Fletcher, Bud Cort and Jimmy Hunt.

Like the original, a youngster (Carson) is awakened by the sound of a flying saucer in his backyard. When his parents (Bottoms and Newman) disappear while investigating his claim and then later return as changed people, he seeks out the professional help of a psychologist (Black). Soon, as each of his friends, neighbors and even the police begin to display grossly altered personalities, the boy realizes that he is embroiled in a struggle with evil tentacled Martian creatures that want to take over the world. Hooper makes an honest attempt to recapture the magic of the original 1953 feature, but like Thomas Wolfe opined, there's no going home again. Jimmy Hunt, the original youngster who cried wolf, cameos as a police officer. Stan Winston made the Martian creatures, and Les Dilley, who worked with H.R. Giger on the original "Alien," designed the bio-mechanical look of the production.

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