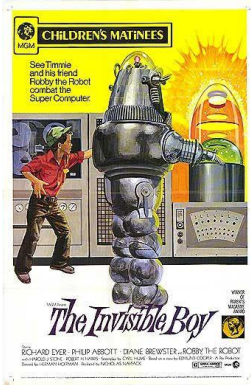


Short Review: “The Invisible Boy” (1957) by Dr. John L. Flynn



The Invisible Boy (1957). Pan Productions, b/w, 89 min. Director: Herman Hoffman.

Producer: Nicholas Nayfack. Screenwriter: Cyril Hume. Based on a short story by Edmund Cooper. Cast: Richard Eyer, Philip Abbott, Diane Brewster, Harold J. Stone, Robert Harris, and Denise McCarthy.

Robby the Robot was such a hit in “Forbidden Planet” (1956) that producer Nayfack ordered up a semi-sequel to showcase his mechanical star’s immense talents and charm. Regrettably, the movie wastes Robby’s appeal on a low budget, largely forgettable thriller. According to the elaborate back-story, when the crew of the C57-D returned to earth, Robby was disassembled for study. His parts were then stolen by the time traveler, and taken back to the 1950’s. A young savant (Eyer) re-assembles Robby, and learns the secret of invisibility, shortly before Robby becomes an evil servant of a psychotic computer bent on world domination. Predictably, the invisible boy rescues Robby, and destroys the master computer. The rather juvenile plot regrettably overshadows the important theme of man meddling with forces beyond his comprehension. The true star of the film, Robby the Robot, would appear dozens of times over the next thirty-five years in other films and television shows.

Copyright 2013 by John L. Flynn, Ph.D.