Short Review: "I, Robot" (2004) by Dr. John L. Flynn



I, Robot (2004), 20th Century Fox, USA, color, 115 min. Director: Alex Proyas. Writers: Isaac Asimov (book), Jeff Vintar, etc. Producers: John Davis, Topher Dow, etc. Cast: Will Smith, Bridget Moynahan, James Cromwell, and Bruce Greenwood.

In 2035, robots are common throughout the USA as helpers and workers in the home and in businesses, but Chicago Detective John Spooner (Smith) doesn't like them anyway.

Investigating the demise of Dr. Alfred Lanning (Cromwell), a designer of robots, Spooner determines that a robot named Sonny has avoided following Asimov's Three Laws of Robotics, which protect human life. Dr. Susan Calvin (Moynahan), a robot analyst, aids the investigation, reluctantly. Lawrence Robertson (Greenwood), president of U.S. Robotics, is the villain, and the film challenges both the mind and the body as Smith shows his action hero moves. The film is slick and fast-moving, a treat for the eye, which is expected from the director of "Dark City" (1998).

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