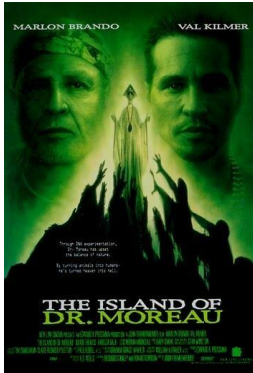


Short Review: “The Island of Dr. Moreau” (1996) by Dr. John L. Flynn



The Island of Dr. Moreau (1996). New Line Cinema, 96min. Director: John Frankenheimer. Producer: Edward R. Pressman. Screenwriters: Richard Stanley and Ron Hutchinson. Based on the novel by H.G. Wells. Cast: Marlon Brando, Val Kilmer, David Thewlis, and Ron Perlman. Set in the year 2010, Dr. Moreau (Brando) has successfully combined human and animal DNA to make a crossbreed animal. When a ship-wrecked man (Thewlis) washes ashore on Moreau’s island in the Pacific Ocean, all hell (literally) breaks loose. Long-winded and short on substance, this was the least successful adaptation of H. G. Well’s classic science fiction novel. The usually reliable Kilmer is wasted as Montgomery; Fairuza Balk is no one’s idea of a sex symbol, and Brando seems to be channeling Colonel Kurtz from “Apocalypse Now” (1979) in most of his scenes. Fans of the “Beauty and the Beast” television series will enjoy seeing Perlman in beast make-up again, but otherwise this is largely forgettable.

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