

Short Review: “Mission to Mars” (2000) by Dr. John L. Flynn



Mission to Mars (2000). Buena Vista, color, 113 min. Director: Brian De Palma. Writers: Lowell Cannon, Jim Thomas, etc. Producer: Tom Jacobson. Cast: Gary Sinise, Tim Robbins, Connie Nielsen, Don Cheadle.

The first manned mission to Mars results in three dead crewmen with the fourth (Cheadle) unable to contact base. So, the second team of McConnell (Sinise), Blake (Robbins), Mrs. Blake (Nielsen) and Ohlmyer (Jerry O’Connell), is dispatched on a rescue mission. They have problems of their own with meteorites, damage to their rescue ship, etc. And then, they discover evidence of extraterrestrials! Funny, none of this was mentioned in the NASA brochures! Instead of channeling Hitchcock like he did in his earlier films, De Palma channels Kubrick to insure that the look and procedures of space flight were at least superficially authentic. This film may be for the folks who prefer the “S” in SF. More footage of Kim Delaney in her tight spacesuit would have pleased us so much more.

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