

Short Review: “Planet of the Apes” (2001) by Dr. John L. Flynn



Planet of the Apes (2001). 20th Century Fox, 119 min. Director: Tim Burton. Producer: Richard D. Zanuck. Screenwriters: William Broyles, Laurence Konner, and Mark Rosenthal. Based on the novel by Pierre Boulle. Cast: Mark Wahlberg, Tim Roth, Estella Warren, Michael Clarke Duncan, and Helena Bonham-Carter.

In 2029, Rapper Marky Mark Wahlberg crashlands on a strange planet where talking apes rule over the human race. With the help of a sympathetic chimpanzee activist named Ari (Bonham-Carter) and a small band of human rebels who are not mute (as in the original), Wahlberg leads the fight against the Gorilla Army led by General Thade (Roth) and his most trusted warrior Attar (Duncan). In this inferior remake, Burton has abandoned the clever satire of the original for lots of spectacle and special effects. By the time Burton springs his big surprise, which is regrettably not the Statue of Liberty, we are already several steps ahead of him. Heston makes a cameo appearance as Zauis, Thade’s father, and Estella Warren is nice eye candy in the Nova-role, but we recommend you rent the original as it’s much more fun.

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