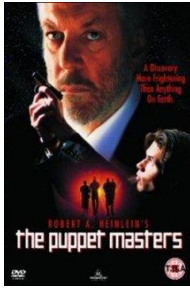


Short Review: “The Puppet Masters” (1994) by Dr. John L. Flynn



Puppet Masters, The (1994). (aka Robert Heinlein’s *The Puppet Masters*). Buena Vista, color, 109 min. Director: Stuart Orme. Writers: Robert Heinlein (novel), Ted Elliott, etc. Producer: Ralph Winter. Cast: Donald Sutherland, Eric Thal, Julie Warner and Will Patton.

A flying saucer touches ground in Iowa, and slug-like creatures that look like they’re on holiday from Roger Corman’s “*It Conquered the World*” (1956) literally attach themselves to the backs of the Iowans. A father and son team (Sutherland, Thal) from a “secret” government agency come to investigate with an exobiologist (Warner) from NASA. They spot a fraud, but they come to know that the threat real. Sutherland’s character is relentless in his pursuit. The action is fast and furious. Unfortunately, though Heinlein’s novel was probably the earliest satire of our society’s 1950’s concerns (anti-communism and the conformity syndrome), similar adaptations or “original” screenplays—such as Don Siegel’s wonderful “*The Invasion of the Body Snatchers*” (1956)—came to the screen first.

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