

Short Review: “Queen of Blood” (1966) by Dr. John L. Flynn



Queen of Blood (aka Planet of Blood) (1966). George Edwards Productions/AIP, 88 min.

Director: Curtis Harrington. Producer: George Edwards. Screenwriter: Curtis Harrington.

Based on the novel by Charles Nuetzel. Cast: John Saxon, Basil Rathbone, Judi Meredith, Dennis Hopper, Florence Marley, and Forrest J. Ackerman.

In the distant year of 1990, three astronauts (Saxon, Meredith, and Hopper) discover a derelict spacecraft on Mars, and bring its sole survivor, a green-tinted alien (Marley), aboard their rocketship. On the return trip to Earth, members of the crew demonstrate they haven't learned a thing from "It! The Terror from Beyond Space," and make easy prey for Marley's hemophilic vampire by wandering alone in the spaceship. Ultimately, Meredith learns the titular monster wants to breed with Saxon, and fights Marley to the death because she has designs of her own for the captain. Director Harrington (under the tutelage of Roger Corman) cannibalized the superior Russian film "Niebo Zowiet" (1959) for stock footage, and shot the balance of the motion picture in eight days with a budget of less than fifty thousand dollars. Regrettably, it looks it. For a bloody awful time, this makes a great double-bill with "Planet of the Vampires."

Copyright 2012 by John L. Flynn, Ph.D.