

## Short Review: “Runaway” (1984) by Dr. John L. Flynn



**Runaway** (1984). Tri-Star Pictures, 99 min. Director: Michael Crichton. Producer: Michael Rachmil. Screenwriter: Crichton. Cast: Tom Selleck, Cynthia Rhodes, Gene Simmons, Stan Shaw, Joey Crammer, G.W. Bailey, and Kirstie Alley.

Unlike “Westworld” (1973), the robots in Michael Crichton's “Runaway”(1984) possess none of the Frankenstein-like qualities that make them a threat to mankind; they are the simple tools of a high-tech society. But when madman Charles Luther (Simmons), named after Superman’s arch-villain, and his girlfriend Jackie Rogers (Alley) begin changing these benign servants into deadly killers, a special branch of the Los Angeles police force dispatches Sergeant Jack Ramsay (Selleck) to hunt them down like a low-rent blade runner. Simmons, the silver-tongued devil from the rock group Kiss, is perfectly cast as the mad doctor, and Selleck lends comic-book heroism to his role as the cop. Rhodes is a real babe, while Alley should stick to Pier One commercials. But the film's central premise that robots possess neither the innate goodness of the ‘droids in “Star Wars” (1977) nor the demonic volition of Phase IV in “Demon Seed” (1978) is far more interesting.

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