

Short Review: “Star Trek: The Motion Picture” (1979) by Dr. John L. Flynn



Star Trek: The Motion Picture (1979), Paramount Pictures, USA, color, 132 min. Director: Robert Wise. Writers: Gene Roddenberry, Alan Dean Foster, etc. Producer: Gene Roddenberry. Cast: William Shatner, Leonard Nimoy, DeForest Kelley, and Stephen Collins.

This first film reminds viewers of the television series and so does the script. A cloud of destructive energy has blasted Klingon warships to smithereens, and is heading towards Earth. In order to save the planet, Admiral James T. Kirk (Shatner) takes command of the new Enterprise, displacing the ship's captain (Collins) to executive officer. Doc McCoy (Kelley) and Spock (Nimoy) are picked up along the way, while a new navigator, Ilia (Persis Khambatta), hangs around to keep everyone's emotions upbeat. Luckily, Spock melds with V'ger in the heart of the cloud and, eventually, the Good Ship Enterprise does her duty one more time! Director Wise of "The Day the Earth Stood Still" (1951) could have done a better job with an original script, but, at least, the fans stayed awake. We both know that Persis Khambatta was one of the most beautiful women in the world (because we read the press kit), but why Roddenberry shaved her head was beyond both of us! It certainly didn't make her sexy!

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