

Short Review: “Star Wars IV - A New Hope” (1977) by Dr. John L. Flynn



Star Wars: Episode IV - A New Hope (1977). (aka Star Wars). 20th Century Fox, color, 121 min. Director: George Lucas. Writer: George Lucas. Producer Gary Kurtz. Cast: Mark Hamill, Harrison Ford, Carrie Fisher and Alec Guinness.

Darth Vader (voice of James Earl Jones), an enforcer for the evil galactic emperor, captures Princess Leia (Fisher), a spokesperson for the heroic rebels. Luke Skywalker’s (Hamill) peaceful life on Tatooine is disturbed when he joins Jedi Knight Obi-Wan Kenobi (Guinness) and two droids to rescue the princess with the help of a hard-bitten smuggler (Ford) and Chewbacca (Peter Mayhew). Together, they rescue Leia from the planet killing Death Star and join the rebels in destroying the Death Star. John Williams’ score is unforgettable. “Star Wars” is a masterpiece melodrama with mythic elements that has two sequels—“The Empire Strikes Back,” “Return of the Jedi”-- with three prequels—“The Phantom Menace,” “Attack of the Clones,” and “Revenge of the Sith”--(and popularized the “prequel” term for film buffs).

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