

Short Review: “Star Wars VI - Return of the Jedi” (1983) by Dr. John L. Flynn



Star Wars: Episode VI - Return of the Jedi (1983). (aka Return of the Jedi). 20th Century Fox, color, 134 min. Director: Richard Marquand. Writers: George Lucas, Lawrence Kasdan, etc. Producer: Howard Kazanjian. Cast: Mark Hamill, Harrison Ford, Carrie Fisher, and Billy Dee Williams.

Better known as “Revenge of the Ewoks,” this was the third, and weakest entry in the middle “Star Wars” trilogy. While the empire builds a new Death Star, interstellar gangster Jabba the Hut holds a frozen Han Solo (Ford) and Princess Leia (Fisher) captive with the aid of mercenary Boba Fett (Jeremy Bulloch). Luke (Hamill) and his friends (Williams, the droids, etc.) come to rescue Han and Leia, posing in a revealing outfit. With the help of the darling little Ewoks (hard fighters for teddy-bear-looking creatures), they fight to destroy the Death Star while Luke battles Vader one last time. The Ewoks blow the dark mood created in “The Empire Strikes Back” and turn the film back into melodrama, rather than drama. Also, the appearance of the emperor (Ian McDiarmid) steals a bit of Vader’s thunder. The only redeeming part of this third film was Carrie Fisher’s smoking body in the slave-girl outfit!

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