

Short Review: “Universal Soldier” (1992) by Dr. John L. Flynn



Universal Soldier (1992). Tri-Star Pictures, 104 min. Director: Roland Emmerich.

Producer: Craig Baumgarten. Screenwriter: Dean Devlin. Cast: Jean-Claude Van Damme, Dolph Lundgren, Ally Walker, and Ed O’Ross.

Dull, crass and stupefyingly mediocre, this was little more than a big-budget reproduction of “The Six Million Dollar Man, with equal parts of “Robocop” (1989) and “Blackenstein” (1973) thrown in for good measure. After several soldiers (including Van Damme and Lundgren) are killed in the final days of the Vietnam conflict, their bodies are resurrected from the dead by government mad scientists to form a special counter-terrorist group. Predictably, Van Damme’s character shakes off his unholy programming, and discovers who he once was, and sets out to put things right. More than worthy of its short stay at the box office, this film deserves to be a fitting epitaph the already dead sub-genre which inspired it.

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