

Short Review: “Total Recall” (1990) by Dr. John L. Flynn



Total Recall (1990) TriStar Pictures, USA, color, 113 min. Director: Paul Verhoeven.

Writers: Philip K. Dick (short story) and Ronald Shusett, & others. Producers: Buzz Feitshans and Ronald Shusett. Cast: Arnold Schwarzenegger, Rachel Ticotin, Sharon Stone, Ronny Cox, and Michael Ironside.

Douglas Quaid (Schwarzenegger), a construction worker in the future, keeps dreaming about Mars. He goes to a corporation for an implant of an actual voyage to Mars, but, during the process, another identity surfaces and causes problems. Soon, his friends and his wife (Stone) are hostile to him. As he runs for his life, he finds the keys that his other identity has left for him. On Mars, he discovers he was a secret agent, allies himself with the rebels (Rachel Ticotin) and makes big changes fast. Sharon Stone who was about to hit the big time with “Basic Instinct” is perfectly cast as Quaid’s complicit wife who knows more than she is saying. Verhoeven created a first-rate action film here with the usual Dick questions: Who am I? Why I am I doing what I’m doing? Near the end of the third reel, Stone and Ticotin battle it out for Quad’s soul, and only one emerges as the victor. But into what reality?

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