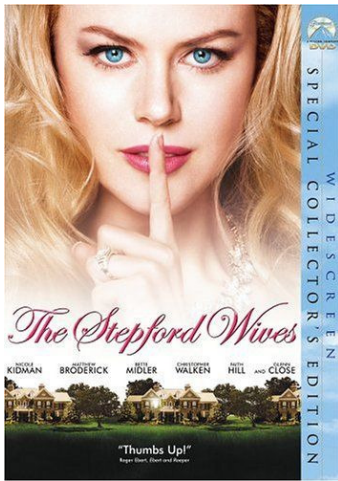


## Short Review: “The Stepford Wives” (2004) by Dr. John L. Flynn



**The Stepford Wives** (2004), Paramount & Dream Works SKG, color, 93 min. Director: Frank Oz. Writers: Ira Levin (novel) and Paul Rudnick. Producers: Edgar Scherick, Donald DeLine, etc. Cast: Nicole Kidman, Matthew Broderick, Bette Midler, Roger Bart, and Christopher Walken.

Hard-driving TV exec Joanna (Kidman) flees from the network wars with her little hubby (Broderick) to Stepford, Connecticut. She finds herself surrounded by beautiful, *House & Garden*-type women who seem so damned happy and unconcerned. Luckily, a chatty slob (Midler) and a witty, gay man (Roger Bart) are around to keep Joanna company.

The mad scientist at the Men’s Club (Walken) knows how to keep the fellow’s wives (or significant others) happy, if you can call it that. Unlike the original film, this one goes for laughs and spoofs rather than dark satire. The women are gorgeous; the men are 1970’s stereotypes. Even though Nicole Kidman is the 2004-robot upgrade, the film is vastly inferior to the original.

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