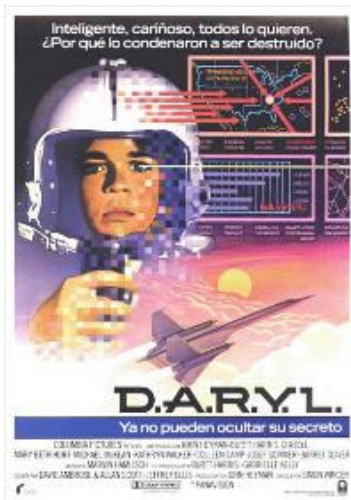


Short Review: “D.A.R.Y.L.” (1985) by Dr. John L. Flynn



D.A.R.Y.L. (1985). Paramount Pictures, 100 min. Director: Simon Wincer. Producer: John Heyman. Screenwriters: David Ambrose and Allan Scott. Cast: Barret Oliver, Mary Beth Hurt, Michael McKean, Kathryn Walker, Colleen Camp, and Josef Sommer. The premise typifies the popcorn-movie sensibilities which dominated science fiction films after the success of Steven Spielberg's “E.T.” (1982). After a childless couple (Hurt and McKean) adopts a little boy (Oliver), they begin to notice that he is not like other boys. Not only does he excel in school and sports, but he can also fly a jet, race a car and outsmart a computer. Eventually, they learn he is a prototype cyborg that an evil government agency wants back. Interesting premise undermined by Paramount Pictures' bland attempt to recreate Spielberg's successful formula. Ironically, Spielberg himself relied on the formula for his far superior “A.I.-Artificial Intelligence” (2001).

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