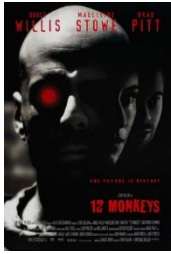


Short Review: “12 Monkeys” (1995) by Dr. John L. Flynn



12 Monkeys (1995). MCA/Universal Pictures, color, 129 min. Director: Terry Gilliam.

Writers: Chris Marker, David Webb Peoples, etc. Producer: Charles Rover. Cast: Bruce Willis, Madeleine Stowe, Brad Pitt and Christopher Plummer.

Terry Gilliam of “Monty Python and the Holy Grail”-fame has created a future world whose surface is scrubbed clean of humans by a 1996 plague, and survivors live in sewers and underground bunkers. Willis, a deviant with a history of violence and anti-social behavior, has been selected by his subterranean jailers to travel backward ten years in a time machine to gain information about the virus that caused the plague. When he arrives in 1990, the time traveler is confined in an asylum because a state-appointed psychiatrist (Stowe) thinks his story about a plague and the end of the world is insane. In the asylum, he meets a fellow mental patient (Pitt) who may hold the key to the plague and a radical group known as the 12 Monkeys. Is this film credible? No, but then it is a time travel film; therefore, the fun is in the ride. Brad Pitt gives the performance of his career, and Madeleine Stowe is sexy as ever. Based on the superior French film short, “La Jetée” (1962), Gilliam’s remake has some laughs, some chills, and a cult following which spawned a Sci-Fi Channel series. Copyright 2016 by John L. Flynn, Ph.D.