

Short Review: “Heavy Metal” (1981) by Dr. John L. Flynn



Heavy Metal (1981), Columbia, color, 86 min. Director: Gerald Potterton. Writers: Len Blum, Daniel Goldberg, etc. Cast: Voices of John Candy, Joe Flaherty, Eugene Levy, and Marilyn Lightstone.

This animated Canadian feature-length film consists of a series of stories, quite similar in style and content to Heavy Metal, the SF, fantasy, action graphic magazine. One story, “Harry Canyon,” begins with a burnout taxi driver in a New York of the future who saves a damsel in distress pursued by a group of heavies. Yes, it resembles “The Fifth Element,” and Moebius seems to be an inspiration for this story and was a designer on “The Fifth Element,” too. One of the best of the other stories is “Den,” straight from Richard Corben’s graphic novel, and who among us can resist a story about a geek who becomes a naked Schwarzenegger in a fantasy world of beautiful women. (Try to avoid running this story over and over). “Heavy Metal” is fun. The super score is diverse, grandiose and welded to the film.

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