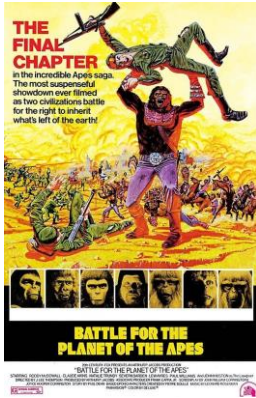


## Short Review: “Battle for the Planet of the Apes” (1973) by Dr. John L. Flynn



**Battle for the Planet of the Apes** (1973). 20th Century Fox, 86 min. Director: J. Lee

Thompson. Producer: Arthur P. Jacobs. Screenwriters: John William Corrington and Joyce Hooper Corrington. Cast: Roddy McDowall, Natalie Trundy, Severn Darden, Claude Akins, Lew Ayres, and John Houston.

The “Planet of the Apes” franchise comes full circle with this fifth and final installment. In 2001, ten years after the nuclear war between apes and humans, the two groups have forged an uneasy alliance, and live together in one of the few areas not contaminated by radioactive fallout. Caesar (McDowall, back for a fourth go-around) governs the community like a latter-day Lincoln, freeing the remaining humans from bondage, while keeping the war-like gorillas (led by Akins) at bay. However, when mutant humans from the Forbidden Zone (led by Darden) learn of the idyllic community, all hell breaks loose, and the war to end all wars breaks out. Director Thompson keeps the action moving so quickly that viewers don’t have time to question plot holes big enough to drive a Sherman tank through, but then, what does it matter? Just sit back and enjoy the PG-rated carnage. John Houston, the legendary director of “The Maltese Falcon” and “The African Queen,” makes an extended cameo as the Apes’ Lawgiver. A short-lived television series followed one year later.

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