

## Short Review: “Conquest of the Planet of the Apes” (1972) by Dr. John L. Flynn



**Conquest of the Planet of the Apes** (1972). 20th Century Fox, 85 min. Director: J. Lee Thompson. Producer: Arthur P. Jacobs. Screenwriter: Paul Dehn. Cast: Roddy McDowall, Ricardo Montalban, Natalie Trundy, Don Murray, Severn Darden, and Hari Rhodes.

The third sequel to “Planet of the Apes” (1968) finds Caesar (McDowall), the offspring of Zira and Cornelius, leading a revolt of apes against a repressive, totalitarian government in the faraway year of 1991. Shortly before all the violence and mayhem ensues, we are told humans have taken apes as pets, and then later slaves, when some mysterious space-borne disease annihilates all dogs and cats. When the kindly Armando (Montalban) dies, trying to protect Caesar from cruel humans, Caesar becomes the property of Governor Beck (Murray), a mean-spirited dictator who has his finger poised on the nuclear button. The intelligent ape eventually escapes, and rallies his forces in a nuclear confrontation against the humans. Thanks to J. Lee Thompson, lots of spectacle, but few babes and very little substance. A fifth and final film, entitled “Battle for the Planet of the Apes,” followed a year later.

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