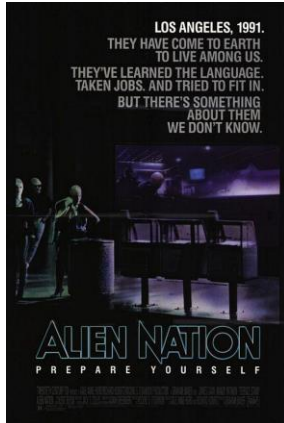


Short Review: “Alien Nation” (1988) by Dr. John L. Flynn



Alien Nation (1988). 20th Century Fox, color, 91 min. Director: Graham Baker. Writer: Rockne S. O’Bannon. Producers: Gale Anne Hurd and Richard Kobritz. Cast: James Caan, Mandy Patinkin, Terence Stamp and Leslie Bevis.

In the near future, an alien civilization comes to earth. These humanoid aliens (with seemingly larger bald heads, different taste buds, and a fear of saltwater), called Newcomers, are slowly brought into humankind’s society. Despite facing severe discrimination, a Newcomer police detective Sam Francisco (Patinkin) is teamed with a somewhat redneck fellow detective Detective Sgt. Matthew Sykes (Caan) to investigate a new drug in play in the Newcomer underworld. As a Newcomer crime boss, Terrence Stamp is a scene stealer. The mix of action and comedy is entertaining. Caan’s hard-boiled performance was the right note to play off the “humanity” of Patinkin’s Francisco. A TV spinoff series had a one-year life on Fox in 1989 with plenty of SF fans.

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