

Short Review: “Futureworld” (1976) by Dr. John L. Flynn



Futureworld (1976). American International Pictures, 107min. Director: Richard T. Heffron. Producer: Paul Lazarus. Screenwriters: Mayo Simon and George Schenck. Based on story ideas by Michael Crichton. Starring: Yul Brynner, Peter Fonda, Blythe Danner, Arthur Hill, John Ryan, and Stuart Margolin.

“Futureworld” was an inferior retread of the original “Westworld” (1973), with news reporters Peter Fonda and Blythe Danner taking a publicity tour of the newly refurbished Delos days before its re-opening to the public. But Fonda, who has been reading too many conspiracy articles by Woodward and Bernstein, senses that there is still something wrong. Slipping behind the scenes, he discovers a plot by the central administrator of Delos (Hill), a robot himself, to infiltrate robot copies of all the world's leaders. Fonda escapes by giving Hill the proverbial finger. Not much new here that wasn't already explored in the first film, but it is fun seeing Brynner's implacable robot gunslinger back in the saddle again. A 1980 television series, entitled “Beyond Westworld,” attempted to expand upon the theme of killer robots but died after only a few episodes.

Copyright 2014 by John L. Flynn, Ph.D.