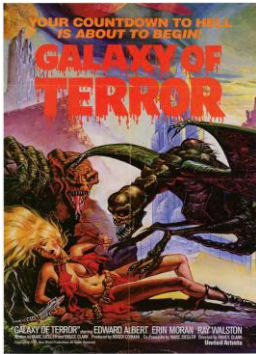


Short Review: “Galaxy of Terror” (1981) by Dr. John L. Flynn



Galaxy of Terror (aka *Mindwarp: An Infinity of Terror* and *Planet of Horrors*) (1981). New World Pictures, 80 min. Director: B. D. Clark. Producers: Roger Corman and Marc Sieglar. Screenwriters: Clark and Sieglar. Cast: Edward Albert, Erin Moran, Ray Walston, Zalman King, Robert Englund, Sid Haig, Bernard Behrens and Taaffe O'Connell.

Handsomely produced, with superior set designs and special effects by James Cameron, still three years away from “The Terminator,” Roger Corman's low-budget rip-off of “Alien” owes as much to “Forbidden Planet” (1956) and George Orwell's 1984 as the Ridley Scott thriller. After traveling for more than a year in hyperspace, Captain Edward Albert and his crew arrive at a forbidden world to investigate the fate of a lost spaceship, and discover the remains of a buried civilization, abandoned millions of years before by its builders, beneath an alien pyramid. The ship's doctor (Walston) warns the crew of monsters from the subconscious id, but before his warnings are heeded, the token female (Moran from “Happy Days”) is raped by a giant worm, and several others are gruesomely killed. The Captain soon learns that the pyramid has the power to convert their worst fears into monstrous creatures, and they must surrender their primitive fears in order to survive. “Event Horizon” (1997) and “Sphere” (1998) also tried reworking this theme, but it was clearly done better here, and in the original “Forbidden Planet.” Look for future Freddy Krueger Robert Englund in a small role.

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