Space invaders from Hollywood

The past, present and future of science-fiction

By Lynn Voedsch

Are the days that fill our heads with visions of the future, the visions we see on the television shows that flicker on our living rooms? If so, then the articles of the 1970s and 1980s may be fascinating. The world of science-fiction has become a never-ending source of inspiration. Not only has it become a major industry, but it has also become a popular pastime. From the earliest days of science-fiction, the genre has been rich in imagination and creativity. Today, science-fiction is more popular than ever, with a wide range of audiences enjoying the genre.

The genre of science-fiction has been around for many years. Its roots can be traced back to the 19th century, with the publication of works such as "Frankenstein" by Mary Shelley and "The War of the Worlds" by H.G. Wells. These works helped to establish the genre and set the stage for future science-fiction writers.

In the 20th century, science-fiction became a major force in popular culture. As technology advanced, so did the possibilities for science-fiction writers. Writers such as Isaac Asimov, Arthur C. Clarke, and Ray Bradbury wrote some of the most iconic science-fiction stories of all time. These stories not only entertained readers, but they also challenged them to think about the future and the role of technology in society.

Today, science-fiction continues to be a major force in popular culture. The genre is represented in films, television shows, books, and comics all over the world. Many of these works have become cultural touchstones, with fans from all over the world reading and discussing them. In recent years, science-fiction has become a major force in the world of video games, with many popular games featuring science-fiction themes.

Science-fiction is not only a popular form of entertainment, but it is also a valuable tool for exploring the future. The genre allows writers to explore the possibilities of technology and society, and to speculate on what the world might be like in the future. By doing so, science-fiction encourages readers to think critically about the world around them and to consider the role of technology in shaping the future.

Science-fiction is a genre that continues to evolve and grow. As technology advances, so do the possibilities for science-fiction writers. Today, science-fiction is more popular than ever, and it continues to be a major force in popular culture. Whether you are a fan of science-fiction or a newcomer to the genre, there is something for everyone in this fascinating world of imagination and possibility.
Spring, summer films go back to the future

Here's a look at some of the upcoming science fiction movie, cable and videotape releases for the spring and summer.

MOVIES:

April 11: "Critters." The tale of aliens from space who are cute but decidedly unsubtle new tenants in a small town.

April 11: "Ultra." A sci-fi story of the future where a young girl must learn to control her power.

May 26: "The Last Starfighter." A story of a young boy who must find a way to save the world from alien invaders.

June 16: "Starman." A story of a typical American who discovers he is a visitor from another planet.

July 7: "Alien." A horror film about an alien that takes over a spaceship.


September 5: "The Fly." A story of a scientist who is accidentally turned into a fly.

October 3: "The Thing." A story of a group of soldiers who discover a creature from another world.

November 7: "The Empire Strikes Back." A sequel to the first "Star Wars" film.

December 12: "Aliens." A sequel to "Alien," following the battle between humans and aliens.

CABLE TELEVISION:

April 21: "The Illustrated Man." A comedy series based on the science fiction short story by Ray Bradbury.


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The Adventure of the Invisible Man

Walter Pigeon and Laurence Olivier

is the chastest of the three. For all its predictability, the film
pores some intriguing questions about man's ability to rid himself
of the powerful, amoral forces of the
id. As in all good sci-fi, there
is a strong spiritual side
"Forbidden Planet."

No discussion of sci-fi oldies
would be complete without a men-
tion of "The Day the Earth Stood
Still," an arty black and white re-
lease starring Michael Rennie as
the alien Klaatu and Patricia Neal.
The film contains a stern high-tech
warning for violent earthlings and a
decidedly uncatechized robot named
Gort. It too poses some spiritual
challenges. Can mankind rid itself
of base urges and serve the Higher
Good represented by Christ figure
Klaatu?

Other trashy classics include
"Plan Nine From Outer Space," which
many consider one of the worst
films ever made. "Destination
"The Valley of the Dinosaurs" and of
course "Blastoff!"

Hollywood most recent crop
of films are developing quite
favorably. "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn" and "The
Old Man and the Sea" are two
noteworthy efforts. The return of
"Rasputin" looks promising.

"Alien," the sequel to the
original "Star Wars," has boosted sales of the
entire "Star Wars" line. The George Lucas epic has been a
financial success, but for every
small success, Hollywood still suffers a big loss.

Some films that are on the
fringes of sci-fi such as
the popular "Black Widow"
pictures and "Planet of the Apes" are
continuing to generate big box
office receipts in the home retail market. But for
every soaring success, Hollywood
still suffers a big loss.

The 1984 film version of "Frank
Herbert's" novel on which "Dune"
was based, was the director's first
major success. Herbert's first
short story was "The Man in
the Mothball Freightliner" in 1963. His
fiction has been praised for its
scope and vision.

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newspaper and adapt the George
Florida masterpieces.

Some critics have bemoaned
such perversions as "civilized," "tasteful" and "artful" with "staid" and "dull" in voicing disappointment in
the Harry and the Florida's film making
instincts. That's one of the reasons
many of those critics are viewing
"A Room With a View" as an
artistic breakthrough.

For his part, Merchant, who
thinks that the humor in the film
and the gale of Italian scenery
might be responsible for the mov-
ies popular success, talks of com-
mittance to his Merchant I'm
style, "If one is to succeed in life," he
said, "you must do exactly what
you are qualified to do. If you
are going to make gentle or char-
acter studies, or whatever you may
call it, if those are the best you can
do, then you must stick with that
and perfect your art as much as
possible. Because every film leads
to a better film. It's like a painter who sticks to the same
sort of subject—every new canvas is
more refined or better. And it's
very important that one should re-
realize that.

These films are not block-bust-
ers, but I think they have given me
enough money to keep on going. If
one were to look at it, I have three
offices on three different contin-
ents—in London, in New York,
and in Bombay. I have two houses.
I don't need to have as much
wealth or have more power as you
know. I feel rather contented and
happy that I have had this oppor-
tunity of working in so many places
and enjoying travel. People know
my name, I am respected.

"Did you know we've been put in
the Guinness Book of Records as
the longest [existing] writer dire-
tor/producer team in the history of
cinema?" He laughed. "That gives
satisfaction, you know? In at least
that sense, no one can say they're
better than us."