

Movies

'2010' quite unlike classic predecessor

By SHAWN BEHLEN
 Staff Reviewer

It's not "2001: A Space Odyssey," but it is a good film. In fact, "2001" and "2010" are so different stylistically, that they probably shouldn't even be compared.

"2010" is being billed as "the year we make contact." With that in mind, the makers of this film have continued the storyline of "2001" and added embellishments of their own. The important difference is that "2010" is so much more accessible. People will not walk out of this one complaining of length, boredom and confusion. "2010" is fast and full of action. It is not even necessary to have seen "2001" to enjoy this sequel.

On the other hand, to achieve this accessibility, the makers of "2010" have had to give up the unique style, message and vision that have characterized "2001" as a classic. In other words, they have made a film for the masses. It is good, but simple.

"2010" picks up nine years after the discovery of an enigmatic black monolith orbiting Jupiter, which was the cause of the crisis in "2001." The spaceship Discovery is still in orbit as well, and astronaut Dave Bowman is presumed dead.

Both Russia and the United States have tried unsuccessfully to discover the meaning of the monolith and find out what happened to Bowman. They are now racing to be the first with another ship ready to send back to Jupiter in order to discover

firsthand what is happening in the sky above.

It turns out the Russians have a ship built first. But the Americans have the knowledge of what happened aboard the Discovery, which is considered American soil. Eventually, the

two countries get together and a crew with members from both countries is sent to Jupiter aboard the Russian ship.

As the ship sets out on its mission, tensions increase between the two countries back on Earth and the findings of the

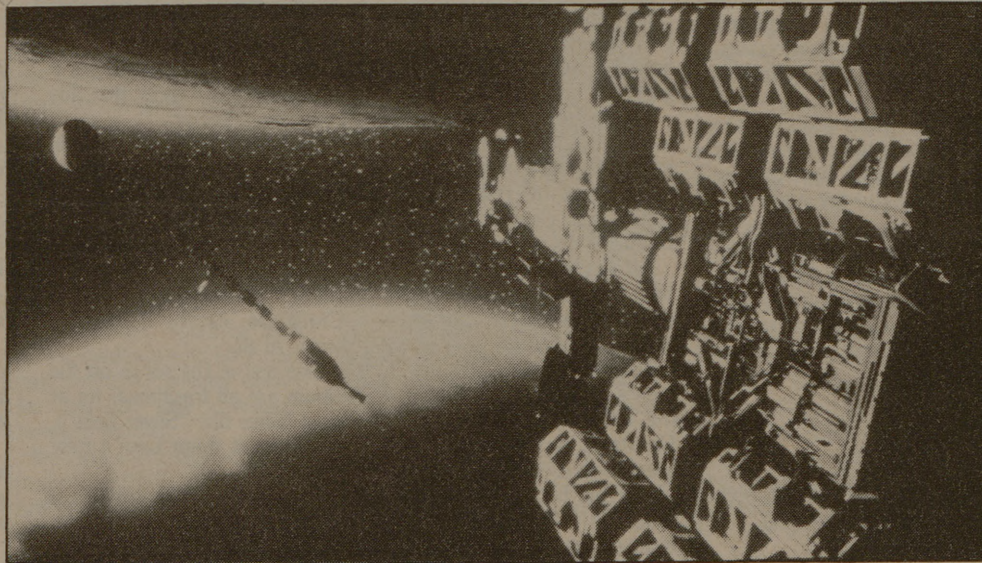
ship and its crew have a monumental effect on all mankind. As for plot, that's about all I can say with a clear conscience.

The big-name star of "2010" is Roy Scheider and he gives a nice performance. His Dr. Heywood Floyd is compassionate and intelligent. Compared to the Floyd of "2001," he is, to put it simply, so much more human.

Another notable performance is given by John Lithgow as Walter Curnow. He was chief designer of the Discovery and is selected to reactivate the ship even though he has never been in space. Lithgow's terror at the prospect of open space is palpable and his humorous conversations with the Russian crew are endearing. In many scenes, he steals the show.

The real show-stopper, though, is Richard Edlund, who was responsible for the special effects. Edlund, who also handled the special effects for "Star Wars" and "Ghostbusters," made over 200 special effect shots for "2010." They are all spectacular.

Produced, directed, photographed and written for the screen by Peter Hyams, "2010" should be one of the biggest hits of the Christmas movie-giving season.



The Leonev and The Discovery

Special effects are a big part of "2010" as evidenced by this shot. The Russian spacecraft Leonev (left) is stationed a safe distance from the derelict American spacecraft Discovery (right), which is tumbling dangerously in a decaying orbit between Jupiter and Io.

Christmas season filled with movie goodies

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It's time for the last round of movie releases for 1984. This week starts the Christmas season, which is known for large budget films of a serious nature and small personal films that are racing in under the Oscar deadline.

From last Wednesday until Dec. 21, 13 major new films have been or will be released by the Hollywood distributors. They are:

Already Released

Falling In Love — Robert De Niro and Meryl Streep are together for the first time since "The Deerhunter." The two are married to other people but after meeting on a train commuting to New York every day, start a romance of sorts. Advance word on this one is highly conflicting with the negative comments seeming to win.

Supergirl — Superman's cousin gets a chance to battle the evil forces in this one. Newcomer Helen Slater (who is getting good reviews) has the title role and Faye Dunaway and Brenda Vaccaro play the head

villains. Peter O'Toole and Mia Farrow also star.

Dec. 7

Beverly Hills Cop — Eddie Murphy (in a role written for (too funny) Sylvester Stallone) stars as a Detroit cop who follows the trail of a friend's killer to Beverly Hills. This is supposed to be a comedy-thriller with tons of action and Murphy is supposed to be as great as ever. Paramount executives are already discussing a sequel.

City Heat — Here's another cop film, but with two big stars instead of one. Clint Eastwood and Burt Reynolds are finally in a film together. A smooth-talking private eye (Reynolds) and a hard-nosed cop (Eastwood) lock horns while trying to bring rival gangsters to justice. Looks as if there is a heavy emphasis on comedy as well as action.

Runaway — Michael Crichton, author of "The Terminal Man," wrote and directed this science fiction thriller set in the near future. A mad electronics genius (Gene Simmons) of the rock group KISS reprograms robots to turn on their masters. Tom Selleck is called on to stop the terror.

2010 — Roy Scheider, John Lithgow and Bob Balaban are three American astronauts sent aboard a Russian spaceship to Jupiter. Their mission is to discover what happened to The Discovery, find out if astronaut Dave Bowman is dead and decide who or what is controlling the monolith discovered in "2001." Peter Hyams ("Outland") directs.

Dec. 14

The Cotton Club — Richard Gere stars in this Roaring Twenties melodrama as Dixie Dywer, a movie star who becomes involved with gangsters while enjoying the entertainment at Diane Lane's Cotton Club, Harlem's hottest. This one was surrounded by controversy as Director Francis Ford Coppola, Producer Robert Evans and the studio all fought over the final cut. But advance word says it is a great film and will mark Coppola's comeback. The coming attractions trailer is fantastic.

Dune — Under the auspices of Director David Lynch ("The Elephant Man" and "Eraserhead"), Frank Herbert's science fiction classic will finally hit the

screen. Newcomer Kyle MacLachlin stars as Paul Atreides, a legendary hero who leads a rebellion against the forces of darkness on the desert planet Dune. Sting, lead singer for The Police, stars as one of the villains and heads an international cast.

Starman — All life forms in the universe have been receiving an invitation to Earth since 1977 thanks to Voyager II. In this film, directed by John Carpenter ("Halloween"), something out there accepts the invitation, comes to Earth and takes over a dead body (Jeff Bridges). While here, he falls in love with Karen Allen, but he can't stay for long.

Dec. 21

The Flamingo Kid — Matt Dillon stars in this nostalgic comedy directed by Garry Marshall ("Young Doctors In Love") and for once, he's not a street punk. Instead, he's a teen-ager from Brooklyn who gets a job at a posh Long Island beach club, where he hopes to earn enough money to finance his college education. He learns, however, about life, love and upward mobility. The film is set in 1963.

Johnny Dangerously — Michael Keaton stars in the title role of this spoof of 1930s gangster films. Dangerously is a tough but sensitive, well-dressed mob leader who must face down his chief rival, played by Joe Piscopo. Marilu Henner stars as the woman both men love and the film was directed by Amy Heckerling ("Fast Times At Ridgeway High").

Micki and Maude — Dudley Moore plays a TV reporter who desperately wants to be a father. That is why he becomes so happy when his mistress, Maude (Amy Irving), becomes pregnant and he marries her. But he is already married to Micki (Ann Reinking), a successful lawyer. Surprise: Micki is pregnant, too. This comedy was directed by Blake Edwards.

Protocol — Goldie Hawn stars as a spirited Washington, D.C., cocktail waitress who accidentally saves the life of a foreign dignitary. So the State Department offers her the job of entertaining visiting diplomats. This one has caught some controversy over its depiction of foreigners and sounds like the usual Hawn fare.