

## Short Review: “The Running Man” (1987) by Dr. John L. Flynn



**The Running Man** (1987). TriStar Pictures, color, 101 min. Director: Paul Michael Glaser.

Writers: Stephen King (novel) and Steven de Souza. Producers: George Linder and Tim Zinnemann. Cast: Arnold Schwarzenegger, Maria Conchita Alonso, Richard Dawson and Yaphet Kotto.

In the future, a maniacal TV game show host (Dawson) pits alleged criminals against professional killers with extensive training and equipment in an American totalitarian state. His ratings are high and are getting higher when he pits his thugs against a former pilot (Schwarzenegger) who refused to fire on hungry civilians rioting over food. The pilot protects a young woman (Alonso), and eventually gets in contact with the rebels. Then, it's payback Arnold-style. Since the combat is usually fixed, the film seems a parody of professional wrestling, at times. At other times, it seems closer to the daily news than to a game-show parody.

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