

Short Review: “Red Planet” (2000) by Dr. John L. Flynn



Red Planet (2000), Warner Brothers, Color, 106 min. Director: Anthony Hoffman. Writers: Chuck Pfarrer and Jonathan Lemkin. Producers: Bruce Berman, Mark Canton, etc. Cast: Val Kilmer, Carrie-Anne Moss, Benjamin Bratt and Tom Sizemore.

With a polluted 2025 Earth behind them, a team of American astronauts led by Robby Gallagher (Kilmer) check out Mars for living space. They have problems, and the team on Mars has to pull together to survive, even with Cmdr. Kate Bowman (Moss) in orbit. The concerns here are scientific, rather than mystical (as in “Mission to Mars” or “2001”). The emphasis here is on character development and solving a complex puzzle rather than special effects and BEMS (bug-eyed monsters). It is reminiscent of many of the good early spaceflight films with “hard” SF as the goal.

Copyright 2012 by John L. Flynn, Ph.D.