

Short Review: “Brazil” (1985) by Dr. John L. Flynn



Brazil (1985). Universal Pictures, UK, color, 131 min. Director: Terry Gilliam. Written by: Terry Gilliam and Charles McKeown. Produced by: Arnon Milchan. Cast: Jonathan Pryce, Robert De Niro, Michael Palin and Jill Layton.

As a forgotten bureaucrat in the Ministry of Information (hark, the influence of Orwell’s novel 1984), Sam Lowry (Pryce) dreams of flying away, quite literally, with the woman of his desires. But he soon becomes involved with an illegal heating engineer (De Niro) who is also a superhero, and fights to break free of his oppressive society. This cornball mixture of comedy, science fiction, and surrealism is a wonder to behold, but some mundanes find it a little difficult to understand. Gilliam, an animator for “Monty Python,” is appropriately zany and satiric; plus, he sure can create eye candy for the mind.

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