

Short Review: “Deathrace 2000” (1975) by Dr. John L. Flynn



Deathrace 2000 (1975). New World Pictures/American International Pictures, 80 min.

Director: Paul Bartel. Producer: Roger Corman. Screenwriters: Robert Thom and Charles Griffith. Cast: David Carradine, Simone Griffith, Mary Woronov, Roberta Collins, Louisa Moritz, and Sylvester Stallone.

Set against the backdrop of a repressive 1984-society, the central focus is a brutal cross-country race that is exploited by the totalitarian regime as an opiate to control the masses. Frankenstein (Carradine), so-called because his many crashes have forced him to have almost every body part replaced by artificial ones, is the nation's leading driver. His chief competitor (Stallone) has been given orders by the government to destroy him in the next race because he has grown so popular with the people, but Frankenstein has plans to kill the totalitarian president with a bomb in his artificial hand. In order to get close enough, he must win the next race. Paul Bartel's fast-moving satire parodies not only the Frankenstein mythos but every other science fiction film, including “Rollerball” (1975), that has postulated such a preposterous future world. This rip-roarin' non-stop action-packed black comedy is an absolute hoot! Lots of great babes and cool cars! A semi-sequel titled “Death Sport” followed three years later.

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