

## Short Review: “Flash Gordon” (1980) by Dr. John L. Flynn



**Flash Gordon** (1980). MCA/Universal Pictures, UK, color, 111 min. Director: Mike Hodges. Written by: Michael Allin and Alex Raymond (comic strip). Produced by: Dino De Laurentis. Cast: Sam J. Jones, Melody Anderson, Max von Sydow, Topol, Ornella Muti, Timothy Dalton, and Brian Blessed.

No, this is not your father’s black and white serial with Buster Crabbe but rather an overblown color spectacular a la De Laurentiis. Flash (Jones), a star football player, blunders aboard the retro rocket ship of Dr. Zarkov (Topol) with the lovely and talented Dale Arden (Anderson). This trio faces the Fu Manchu mustache and evil of Ming (and Dale fends off his advances in the harem) in order to save Earth. The buff Flash attracts the interest of Ming’s half-clad daughter (Muti) and escapes. Flash and Prince Barin (Dalton) have a great bullwhip duel on an unsteady platform at the court of Prince Vultan of the Hawkmen (Blessed), a macho guy with a great laugh. Does the trio save the Earth? Who else? Do we have camp values? We think so. Would we run off with Ornella Muti? Damn straight! If you like Queen, you’ll love the music score. The cinematography is gorgeous, a rainbow of color and invention.

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